Coral Coast Foundation Corp. launches sustainable initiatives. PAGE 2
Nat'l Care at Home Month and Nat'l Family Caregiver Month proclaimed. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 220

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2024 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

4th quarter revenue collections exceed forecasts by over $8M

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance is in the process of submitting its fourth quarter performance report for fiscal year 2024 and based on the report, revenue collections exceed expectations by over $8 million.

During a press conference last Thursday, Finance Secretary Tracy Norita shared that

See FOURTH on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Department of Finance Secretary Tracy Norita, third from left, said she is in the process of submitting a fourth quarter performance report to the CNMI Legislature during a press conference last Thursday at the Governor's Office on Capitol Hill.

Naraja resets hearing on recusal motion

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The motions hearing for the Shayne Blanco Villanueva case, originally to be held last Friday at the NMI Superior Court in Susupe with Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja did not take place, and instead the trial was moved to Dec 3, 2024.

Naraja

The prosecution team shared that Naraja did not hold the motions hearing and instead in an order issued on Friday, Nov. 1, moved the trial to Dec. 3, and ordered briefing on the issue of whether he has to recuse himself to be on Nov. 12, with the arguments on it this Nov. 18. The motions hearings

See NARAJA on Page 4

THROUGH FAC

Muña says CUC customers actually subsidizing gov't

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. grant writer Candice Muña bared that the

See MUÑA on Page 4

RACQUEL FLOYD

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. grant writer and whistleblower Candice Muna was the guest of a town hall meeting last Wednesday night at the Last Shot Bar. To her right is Marianas Business Network founder PK Phommachanh-Daigo.

CPA needs $15M for operations

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's terminal

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority needs over $15 million for maintenance and operations for fiscal year 2025.

CPA and Ricondo and Associates Inc. has released the

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INSIDE

BUSINESS

Floramixed Flowers & Gift Shop, located on Espana Street in Gualo Rai is blossoming into the local community with the support and guidance of the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network at the Northern Marianas College.

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NATION

Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump zeroed in on the Sun Belt on Saturday as they embarked on one last weekend quest to sway every undecided voter in the battleground states. They pitched rival agendas on the economy–and more–that each insisted is what Americans want.

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LIFE & STYLE

Heidi Klum and Janelle Monáe opted for out-of-this-world Halloween costumes this year–both choosing to dress as the stubby alien E.T. for their parties on opposite coasts.

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Coral Coast Foundation Corp. launches sustainable initiatives

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

RACQUEL FLOYD

The Coral Coast Foundation Corp., a non-profit organization held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to launch its green initiatives and promote healthy eating habits within the community, especially for children of the CNMI last Thursday afternoon at the farm site in Agingan. From left Maverick Rotap, CCFC director Eleanor Alinas, Philippine Congressman Rodante Marcoleta, Capas, Tarlac in the Philippines Mayor Antonio Rodriguez, wife of Congressman Marcoleta, Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services acting dean Patty Coleman, CNMI Division of Agriculture' Charles Aiseam.

The Coral Coast Foundation Corp., a non-profit organization held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to launch its green initiatives and promote healthy eating habits within the community, especially for the children of the CNMI last Thursday afternoon at the farm site in Agingan.

The launch of the project is in collaboration with the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services and Children Healthy Living Center Hawaii. The latter focuses on growing fresh produce through sustainable farming such as hydroponic systems to foster healthier lifestyle choices in children.

"Today embarks the beginning of a mission for sustainable initiatives of CCFC. As we mark this launch, we are to do a symbolic ribbon cutting," said Kalayaan Inc.'s Airen Padilla Lerio.

The ceremony was attended by the Philippine Congressman Rodante Marcoleta, NMC-CREES acting dean Patty Coleman, Charles Aiseam of the CNMI Department of Agriculture, Capas, Tarlac in the Philippines Mayor Antonio Rodriguez, and staff of Kalayaan Inc.

According to CCFC director Eleanor Alinas, the foundation aims to redefine agricultural practices to balance food cultivation with ecological preservation, adding that the foundation is committed to creating a healthier and more resilient future for the CNMI, particularly for school-aged children.

"Today I am thrilled to stand before you to launch the Coral Coast Foundation. We are passionate about advancing our sustainable green initiative in a world where agricultural practices often clash with ecological balance. We are committed to redefining how we cultivate our food, protect our planet and our islands, and nourish our communities particularly our school-aged children in the CNMI. We have the vision, and this is to have a healthier, more resilient future. Our mission is rooted in the principles of sustainability. Practices that not only yield high quality produced but also conserve resources, enhance biodiversity, and combat climate change," said Alinas.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Kalayaan Inc. staff poses for a photo with Philippine Congressman Rodante Marcoleta

Alinas acknowledged Coleman for NMC-CREES' support in sustainable farming methods as CCFC prioritized growing salad greens and seasonal produce to minimize transportation emissions and ensure fresh and nutritious food.

Alinas added that education is a key component of their mission, with plans for workshops, farm tours, and community events to share sustainable practices.

"We want to empower individuals and families to make informed choices, whether it's starting their own home gardens or understanding the impact of their food choices. As we launch Coral Coast Foundation, we invite you to join us on this journey together," added Alinas.

Coleman then thanked Alinas for her inspiring remarks and highlighted the importance of CCFC in the Marianas.

"One of the things that's just so wonderful with the Coral Coast Foundation is them being exemplary trailblazers in the [Northern] Mariana Islands, and the integration of growing fresh, wholesome food, the best possible food that we can give to our children in the CNMI through the CNMI breakfast and lunch program, coupled with an excellent, resilient business model through Kalayaan is something to really be celebrating," said Coleman.

Coleman mentioned that the success of CCFC has inspired other stateside partners, who plan to use it as a case study for other regions, and that NMC reaffirms its commitment to working with CCFC to achieve sustainable development in the Marianas.

Meanwhile, Aiseam expressed his division's support and assistance to the CCFC projects.

"Our office will support and send in projects like this to improve the local farming industry. So, with our support, we would like to come and assist you guys on whatever projects that you guys are doing under this foundation. That is something we are looking for," said Aiseam.

The event's special guest of honor, Marcoleta, who just flew in from the Philippines, conveyed his support for the project.

Marcoleta in his speech emphasized the importance of eating to live and the significance of the program in achieving sustainable development goals.

"The launching of this program is very worthwhile because I think it is No. 2 and No. 3 in the sustainable development goals (referring to zero hunger, and good health and well-being). The very purpose of this mission and advocacy is to be able to inspire people to grow food for our table," said Marcoleta.

The congressman discussed the high prices of basic staples in the Philippines and the importance of agriculture for food self-sufficiency. He also highlighted the need for patience and flexibility in promoting sustainable agriculture and feeding children.

Moreover, Marcoleta shared the HAPAG program in the Philippines which encourages people to grow fruit and other staples.

"HAPAG is a program initiated by two departments in my country and encourages indigenous people because they have the lands. They have 13 million hectares of land to plant fruits and other staples," said Marcoleta.

Marcoleta ended his remarks by wishing CCFC success and thanked its funders and NMC-CREES.

The event concluded with the planting of the coconut seedlings, which will be used as the farm borders to enhance the future look of the farm facility.

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)

RFQ25-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-001

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACTORS FOR COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CHCC hereby seeks the services of a qualified Contractors to perform Design/Build Services for Projects located at the hospital in Saipan, Clinics in Tinian and Rota. The selected Contractors will be issued a Contract thru RFQ25-CHCC-DESIGN/BUILD-001. These services are in accordance with CHCC's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 140-80.1-250 Pre-Qualification of Contractors and

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Work is available on November 1st, 2024 online at www.chcc.health, navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this RFP243-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-001.

A Pre-conference meeting will be held on November 8th, 2024 at 9:00AM at the Conference Room #2 located in main Executive Office.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via email to Ms. Cora P. Ada, Director of Procurement at cora.ada@chcc.health and to Jesse Tudela, COO/Ancillary Director at jesse.tudela@chcc.health no later than November 25th, 2024.

Proposers shall submit proposals and all supporting documents to Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, at procurement@chcc.health, no later than: 16300hrs (1630) Chamorro Standard Time on December 4th, 2024.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW25-ITB No.: 42500002**

SUBMISSION DATE: November 22, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Office Renovation for the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA)."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **October 22, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of pay-ment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 07, 2024, 9:00 a.m., ChST** at the **Office of Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA), Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on November 13, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

/S/ DEREK SASAMOTO
Acting Executive Director of CEDA

Nat'l Care at Home Month and Nat'l Family Caregiver Month proclaimed

Marianas Health Services hosted a proclamation signing led by Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, proclaiming the month of November 2024 as National Care at Home Month and National Family Caregiver Month with the theme "Linalala, Respetu, Diknidat/ Freedom, Respect, Dignity."

The event was held within MHS' facility last Wednesday, Oct. 30, starting at 9:30am.

The proclamation acknowledges the invaluable contributions of caregivers and the importance of home care, honoring the incredible heroes in the local community. A heartfelt thank you to all the dedicated professionals—home care aides, nurses, therapists, and social workers who provide compassionate care and support.

MHS

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang joined special guests, dignitaries, and Marianas Health Services staff in the proclamation signing that declared November 2024 as National Care at Home and National Family Caregiver Month last Oct. 30.

The event highlights the vital roles that family caregivers provide in supporting their loved ones and improving quality of life at home. Their unwavering commitment allows patients to receive essential services in the comfort of their homes, making a profound difference in their lives.

Special guests, dignitaries, and MHS staff were in attendance to witness the proclamation signing by Apatang in recognition of National Care at Home and National Family Caregiver Month for the month of November 2024.

Throughout November, the nation comes together to celebrate and honor the dedicated professionals who play pivotal role in the well-being of countless patients and their families, who make an immeasurable difference in the lives they touch. Their unwavering commitment to providing care and compassion is a cornerstone of our healthcare system, allowing individuals to receive vital services within the comfort of their homes.

Recognizing their profound impact, Marianas Health Services joins the National Association for Home Care and Hospice to commemorate November as National Care at Home Month and National Family Caregiver Month.

With an estimated 10,000 Americans reaching 65 years old every day, the demand for healthcare services is continually rising, leading to soaring costs. Home care and hospice emerge as the preferred choice for most patients, offering substantial cost savings while delivering personalized care. Care provided within the home is more affordable than hospital or nursing home care. It also empowers countless seniors to maintain their independence, allowing them to age gracefully in the familiar surroundings of their communities—a goal shared by 90% of Americans.

George J. Cruz, administrator for Marianas Health Services, said "This year, NAHC launched a pioneering campaign to elevate the perception of home-based care. This represents a significant milestone for our industry as we fight to attract and retain talent while delivering top-quality care to our most vulnerable population."

MHS held a launch and waving activity—HAFA WAVE—not only to commemorate November as National Care at Home and National Family Caregiver Month but National Diabetes Prevention and Awareness Month last Friday, Nov. 1, long Beach Road across MHS and Oleai Beach Bar & Grill.

Let us recognize this month of awareness together as we gather side by side as one in the community.

For more information, contact MHS at (670) 233-4646 or email: info@marianashealth.com. ***(PR)***

Saipan Community School 1st quarter honor list

SCS

Saipan Community School students who made it to the honor list of the first quarter of school year 2024-2025 pose for a group photo.

Saipan Community School congratulated students who made it to the honor list of the first quarter of school year 2024-2025.

Principal's list 4.00 (No grade below A)

- Fiona Yu-5th grade
- Iyani Muna-6th grade

A honor roll 3.50 to 3.99 (No grades below B)

- Seoyeon Kwon-4th grade
- Onyu Seok-4th grade
- Vivian So-4th grade
- Aiko Tenorio-4th grade
- Zijun Zhao-4th grade
- Joseph Zhu-4th grade
- Jeordan Buduan-5th grade
- Christopher Chen-5th grade
- Aileen Kim-5th grade
- Damien Camacho-6th grade
- Yoon Sung Choi-6th grade
- Joon Woo Kwon-6th grade
- Seung Woo Lee-6th grade
- Joshua McDonald-6th grade
- Keaven Punzalan-6th grade
- Ohnyoo Sa-6th grade
- Jina Chun-7th grade
- Micaela Tenorio-7th grade
- Vivian Chung-8th grade
- Karis Han-8th grade
- Elijah Pangelinan-8th grade
- Jose Sablan-8th grade
- Erine So-8th grade

B Honor Roll 3.00 to 3.49 (No grades below a C)

- Johnson Hee-4th grade
- Troy Anthony Aldan-5th grade
- Arianna Deleon Guerrero-5th grade
- Sehwa Lim-5th grade
- Melvin Reyes-5th grade
- Kana Van Ee-5th grade
- Amethyst Winkfield-5th grade
- David Gu-6th grade
- Juliana Taman-6th grade
- Olivia Um-6th grade
- Ryan Macaranas-7th grade
- Claire Oh-7th grade
- Hiyori Okuma-7th grade
- Leo Samson Pangelinan-7th grade
- Jesus Villagomez-7th grade
- Xzavier Hane-8th grade ***(PR)***

ABTC to enforce alcohol ban on election day

The CNMI Department of Commerce is reminding the general public that on Nov. 5, 2024, in accordance with 4 CMC, Subsection 5557(a), an on-sale or off-sale licensee shall not sell or serve alcoholic beverages on any island where an election is in progress during the hours when the polls are required by law to be opened for voting, except as otherwise provided.

This prohibition shall apply from 7am to 7pm on Nov. 5, 2024, during the general elections.

Furthermore, in accordance with 4 CMC, Subsection 5557(b), the prohibition with respect to the sale or the serving of alcoholic beverages whenever an election is in progress during the hours when the polls are required by law to be opened for voting shall not apply to on-sale licensees operating within the sterile passenger holding areas at commercial airports, hotels, hotel resorts, golf resorts, casino resorts, and any licensee operating at Mañagaha Island, within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

To report a violation, please contact the Department of Commerce, Alcoholic Beverage & Tobacco Control Division hotline at (670) 285-1821. All calls received are handled confidentially and anonymously. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM WEBSITE: HTTPS: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport

"Car Rental Concessions"

for: CPA-RFP-002-25

(Saipan) CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-20
(Tinian) CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-30
(Rota) CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-40

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of a total of three (3) concessions, one (1) per respective Airport, granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, and/or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposers will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, and/or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-25 is Friday, October 18, 2024, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than Friday, November 8, 2024.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) by or before 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Please ensure that your proposal clearly indicates the correct concession number corresponding to the location for which you are submitting. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-25

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 27, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 28, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "CPA INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES (RFP-007-25)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 27, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2024

Supreme Court releases closure dates in Nov.

On Nov. 1, 2024, the Supreme Court outlined the Judiciary's closure date during the month of November 2024

■ Nov. 4, 2024 (Monday) Citizenship Day

■ Nov. 5, 2024 (Tuesday) Election Day

■ Nov. 11, 2024 (Monday) Veterans Day

■ Nov. 25, 2024 (Monday) Annual Judiciary Professional Development Conference

■ Nov. 26, 2024 (Tuesday) Annual Judiciary Professional Development Conference

■ Nov. 28, 2024 (Thursday) Thanksgiving Day

E-filing portals (File and ServeXpress and eRecording) will remain open during the holidays. Bail, family protection, emergency, and time-sensitive matters may be set consistent with applicable rules. Judiciary personnel may be activated for emergency and essential services.

Visit the Judiciary's website at www.NMIJudiciary.gov for court information. For additional information or inquiries, contact:

■ Judy T. Aldan, Esq.
(670) 236-9718
(670) 788-4363
judy.aldan@nmijudiciary.gov

■ Patrick V. Diaz
(670) 235-4258 or 236-9703
(670) 783-8417
patrick.diaz@nmijudiciary.gov.

(PR)

MUÑA

From page 1

CNMI utilities company essentially uses the Fuel Adjustment Charge to subsidize what the government owes CUC.

"They just kept changing the name. So, it ended up now as the Fuel Adjustment charge, right? But yes, now they're making the customers think that this is our fuel charge, when, in fact, we are paying a portion of the government's dues," she said while serving as guest speaker of Marianas Business Network's town hall meeting held last Wednesday at Last Shot Bar.

Muña also jokingly said that since she whistle-blew, she has essentially become CUC's No. 1 customer service representative.

Muña, who was terminated last Oct. 17, also shared some insights abot her six-month tenure at CUC, highlighting CUC's power structure and financial mismanagement.

"I'm not speaking as a CUC employee, because, as you know, I was terminated on Oct. 17. I think that was like for me probably the most popularized termination in the CNMI... I'm not speaking as a current CUC employee, but I am going to share everything that I learned while I was there the past six months. It didn't take me very long to find out a lot, to learn a lot about everything, about the power structure, about how much power CUC has, how much money, and also about the many things that [they're] keeping secret from the people of the CNMI, especially the ways the people of the CNMI have been paying, not only financially paying for mismanagement, but also paying through their health and well-being," she said.

Muña recounted her journey as a grant writer, as she highlighted the research and grant writing process, including a $25-million grant for revamping power plants and adopting renewable energy.

"I started CUC on April 24, 2024... Within those six months, I did three large grants. One of them was a $25-million grant to revamp our power plants here in the CNMI, we have these really old, noncompliant gensets that are basically on the verge of breaking down, and the engineers and the mechanical engineers of the plant are basically keeping them alive by creating these spare parts that are obsolete. So, we have those. And then we, you know, we need to adopt renewable energy. And that's another subject that I witnessed over at CUC," she said.

She criticized the lack of support for renewable energy within CUC and mentioned the $645,000 grant for the solar farm design that was awarded but not utilized.

She also shared her experience at a clean energy proclamation signing, expressing frustration over CUC's avoidance of renewable energy initiatives.

Moreover, she discussed the issue of contracting within CUC, noting that contracts are kept confidential and awarded to the same vendors repeatedly.

She also emphasized the importance of transparency and due process, criticizing the lack of rule of law and due process within CUC.

She commended Rep. Vincent Aldan (Ind-Sapan), who was also present during the town hall meeting for the passage of a bill to, in a way, reestablish the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

Muña expressed her faith in the local government and the importance of holding CUC accountable through local channels rather than going directly to the federal government. She emphasized the need for transparency and due process within CUC, reiterating the importance of following the rule of law.

Meanwhile, John Oliver Gonzales, who is running for U.S delegate, said that he attended the town hall meeting to listen and get information and ignite the public outcry started by Muña.

"On behalf of the silent, the voiceless, employees have been manipulated within CUC. So tomorrow (CUC board meeting last Thursday), 100% absolutely hands down, I'll be there at the CUC meeting. I want to listen. I want to get information. I want to get the data and I'm ready," he said.

FOURTH

From page 1

she is in the process of submitting a fourth quarter performance report to the CNMI Legislature.

The highlight of the report, she shared, is that revenue collections for the fourth quarter of FY24 has exceeded forecasts by $8.3 million.

"We've seen some positive improvements and indicators. For the fourth quarter alone, we exceeded forecasts by 21% or $8.3 million compared to historical collection trends," she said.

Norita detailed that in income taxes alone, revenue collections were up over $6 million.

"In the report, the subcategory of income taxes, which includes BGRT, personal income tax, corporate income tax, we saw an increase of 26% or $6.1 million," she said.

For the overall taxes and fees category, Norita said the CNMI exceeded forecasts by 7% or $2.5 million.

"I believe this is a direct result of the aggressive collection efforts of the tax collection taskforce in addition to other economic activities that are the sources of these increases," she said.

Norita adds that the report will also include a cumulative fiscal performance for FY24.

"Because of these joint effort by this administration, we have exceeded income tax forecasts by 15% or $14.6 million," she said.

Norita expresses that the increase in collections is a direct result of efforts made by the recently established Task Collections Taskforce.

"Also because of the efforts of the Tax Collections Taskforce, we've increased our collection on penalties and interest by 195%. It's now evident that this is a necessary effort that should continue," she said.

Another highlight of the report, Norita shared, was the increase in collection of Hotel Occupancy Tax.

"One other factor that we've been monitoring closely is the collection of Hotel Occupancy Tax which exceeded forecasts by 12%. This is a direct result, again, of increase enforcement and of tourist arrivals resulting in the Marianas Visitors Authority receiving an additional $569,000 to boost tourism and their operations," she said.

"Again, we're not out of the woods yet, we understand that we are still seeing challenges in our excise tax collections mostly due to national and global events that are driving up the costs of goods and fuel. However, we do see specific increases on construction going to Tinian. So those are other positive indicators," Norita added.

NARAJA

From page 1

are now on Dec. 2.

The bench trial for Villanueva was originally set for this week before the rescheduling.

The Commonwealth Superior Court is examining whether Judge Roberto C. Naraja should recuse himself from presiding over the case of Villanueva. The potential conflict centers on Naraja's familial connection to Rep. Ralph Naraja Yumul (Ind-Saipan), who has been called to testify in the matter. Villanueva's defense team contends that this relationship may compromise the fairness of the proceedings. Naraja is Yumul's uncle.

The court order, issued on Nov. 1, 2024, by Naraja addresses three specific issues—scheduling a hearing on Villanueva's motion for recusal, directing the defendant to submit a detailed memorandum supporting the recusal request, and requiring the Commonwealth's opposition to the motion. Naraja's order states that "the familial relationship between the undersigned judge and Yumul creates an appearance of, if not a conflict of interests, thereby questioning the court's impartiality."

Naraja has consistently argued that disqualification is unwarranted in this matter, emphasizing that Yumul's relationship is limited to the "third degree" under civil law standards, which is outside the "second degree" threshold that would necessitate automatic recusal under CNMI law. As he noted in the order, "Representative Yumul's third-degree relationship to the judge does not mandate automatic recusal under 1 CMC § 3308(b)(5)(iv)." Under CNMI's Code of Judicial Conduct, a judge is required to recuse if their "impartiality might reasonably be questioned."

Villanueva's defense initially raised the issue of conflict of interest during the April 2, 2024, arraignment, and reiterated these concerns at the Oct. 22, 2024, pretrial conference. However, despite multiple opportunities, they had not formally submitted a motion for recusal. Naraja highlighted this, noting, "Defendant again failed to follow through with the required formal motion…to provide evidence of bias, or offer legal authority substantiating the necessity for recusal."

In a procedural move to ensure impartiality, Naraja has decided to appoint another judge to preside over the upcoming hearing. The hearing date will be determined in open court, and the parties are expected to submit their respective arguments. According to Naraja, the defendant now has "the opportunity to present its concerns through a written motion supported by a memorandum of law," with the Commonwealth filing an opposition.

Villanueva's legal team, through attorney Keith Chambers, will likely focus on whether Yumul's testimony, although procedural, could cast doubt on the court's neutrality. Naraja countered that Yumul's role in the case is "purely procedural," and that a reasonable person would not question the judge's impartiality based on these circumstances.

Villanueva's case stems from his role in the Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Program program, an initiative under scrutiny for alleged misuse of public funds.

CPA

From page 1

fiscal year 2025 budget for CPA and according to the budget, $15,009,075 is needed for maintenance and operation of CNMI's airports.

Ricondo and Associates Inc. is a consultant of CPA and recommends its budget and rates.

The budget was approved by the CPA board during a regular board meeting back last September.

CPA's budget comes from fees collected from airline partners who use any of the CNMI airport facilities.

According to documents acquired by *Saipan Tribune*, CPA says it needs $4.89 million alone for salaries and wages.

Of the reported $15 million budget need, over $2.9 million will go toward utilities while another $2.9 million will go toward insurance.

In addition, CPA says over is $1.3 million is needed to pay contractual services while $870,000 is needed to pay for employee benefits.

CPA has also detailed in its budget that over $817,000 is needed for supplies and materials, $558,000 is needed for repairs and maintenance, and $227,400 will go toward fuel.

CPA has also allotted over $89,000 for travel expenses, while $80,000 has been obligated for legal services among other allocations.

Last fiscal year, due to the budget, CPA implemented a 90% increase in landing fees.

CPA has yet to formally share the new rates that were adopted during the Sept. 27, 2024 board meeting.

In addition, the CPA board also adopted a 79% increase in its terminal rental rate for both the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's main terminal and for the commuter terminals for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Last fiscal year, CPA terminal rental rates for the Saipan International Airport's main terminal went up from $19.49 per square foot to $34.92. Meanwhile, the terminal rental rates for all CNMI commuter terminals went up from $7.79 to $13.97.

As for landing fees, with the 90% increase, CPA charged international airline carriers $15.25 per thousand pounds of certified maximum gross landing weight of the aircraft; they were previously being charged $8.01.

As for CNMI commuter terminals, the 90%-increase brought landing fees up from $4.81 to $9.15.

WOW INITIATIVE

NMC CREES launches free blood pressure and blood sugar checks

Walk & Roll on Wednesday is a diabetes awareness and prevention initiative offering free blood sugar and blood pressure checks to the community every Wednesday.

In an effort to enhance community health and well-being, there will be free blood pressure and blood sugar checks offered to the community every Wednesday. NMC-CREES, with the CNMI Green Growth Initiative, and through partnerships with CHCC Public Health, Hardt Eye Clinic Diabetes Education Center, Marianas Health, and the NMC Nursing Club, is excited to announce the launch of the Walk & Roll on Wednesday outreach program, beginning on Nov. 20, 2024. This weekly community health initiative aims to raise awareness about diabetes prevention and early detection, promote diabetes management resources, and encourage physical activity across the island.

WOW will provide free weekly blood sugar and blood pressure checks, every Wednesday from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at the 13 Fishermen Utt on Beach Road, starting Nov. 20. The entire Saipan community is invited to join the WOW outreaches and take steps—literally and figuratively—toward a healthier future. Through walking and rolling every Wednesday, the CNMI community will have a greater awareness of preventing diabetes and early detection.

NMC

Walk & Roll on Wednesday is a diabetes awareness and prevention initiative offering free blood sugar and blood pressure checks to the community every Wednesday.

Diabetes prevention and management

According to the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, "Diabetes is a disease that occurs when your blood glucose, or blood sugar, is too high. Left unchecked, diabetes can damage the eyes, kidneys, nerves, and heart and is also linked to certain cancers." The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that more than 1 in 3 American adults have prediabetes, putting them at risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Over 80% of those with prediabetes do not know they have prediabetes.

In the CNMI, diabetes is estimated to affect more than 25% (1 in 4 adults) of the adult population. WOW seeks to address these alarming trends by offering vital resources to the community. In addition to free health checks, participants will receive education on diabetes prevention and management and practical tips for leading healthier lives.

A legacy of service

The WOW initiative traces its origins back to November 2002, when the CHCC Department of Public Health Diabetes Prevention & Control Program launched the campaign to promote walking and monitor blood sugar and blood pressure levels. What began as a simple diabetes awareness campaign soon evolved into a weekly community clinic offering a range of health services, especially to those without insurance. Over the years, WOW expanded to include screenings for diabetic foot health, cancer awareness, and healthy cooking demonstrations—all while promoting physical activity along the Beach Road Pathway. The WOW was recognized by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention for its excellent outcomes in preventing diabetes.

Bringing WOW back

NMC-CREES is thrilled to relaunch this important community health outreach during National Diabetes Month 2024, themed "Take Charge of Tomorrow." This year's focus emphasizes the importance of taking proactive steps to prevent diabetes and diabetes-related health problems.

The WOW initiative aims to empower the CNMI community with the knowledge and tools to protect their health and well-being.

"Together, we CAN prevent Type II Diabetes and enhance the health of our community. Swing by on Wednesdays to get your blood pressure and blood sugar checked and to walk and roll with us on the Beach Road Pathway," stated NMC CREES interim dean and CNMI Green Growth Working Group co-chair Patty Coleman.

"Join us as we take charge of tomorrow by preventing diabetes today. Together, we can prevent diabetes!"

For more information about WOW, please contact NMC CREES at (670) 237-6853/2 or email wow@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Portable solar-powered table-top fans distribution on Tinian this Saturday

The Department of Public Works' Energy Division Office will be hosting its 2024 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Community Outreach Awareness Campaign and Distribution Program to distribute portable solar-powered table-top fans on the island of Tinian.

The Energy Division, in conjunction with its Energy Education, Efficiency, and Conservation Program efforts, will be distributing one portable solar-powered table-top fan per residential household to assist residential consumers reduce the energy consumption and electricity costs of their homes and to educate the community about the importance of energy efficiency and conservation efforts in the CNMI.

The portable solar-powered tabletop fans will be available for distribution on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the specified time, while supplies last. The event will be a drive-thru distribution event and will be held at the date, time, and location specified below set for this Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Tinian Youth Center starting at 8am while supplies last.

To avail of a portable solar-powered table-top fan, residential household consumers must present a copy of a valid government-issued identification card and a copy of a most recent utility bill with the name on the account. If consumers are renting, please provide a copy of the lease or rental agreement along with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. utility bill. If the CUC account is under the landlord's name, a copy of the landlord's valid government-issued identification card must be provided. If the tenant is sub-metered, the sub-metered number must be provided along with the CUC utility bill/receipt of the utility bill and a copy of the account holder's valid government-issued identification card.

If a residential homeowner with a CUC account holder's name is unable to participate in the event, a homeowner may designate an authorized person to obtain a portable solar-powered table-top fan on their behalf. However, an authorization letter must be issued by the homeowner designating a person authorized to obtain the portable solar-powered table-top fan, along with a copy of a valid government-issued ID of the account holder and the designated person authorized. Businesses, rental property owners, and/or Landlords are not eligible to receive the portable solar-powered table-top fans.

Additionally, please be sure to follow the traffic flow as instructed whether it be by foot, bike, scooter, car, etc. and keep in mind that there are absolutely no walk-ins allowed.

For additional questions or information regarding this event, you may contact Mardee-Ann Hermosilla, administrative officer, or Daniel Taitano, program coordinator at (670) 664-4480/2.

Funding opportunity for this project is made possible through federal grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), State Energy Program-Bi-Partisan Infrastructure law (SEP-BIL). ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Telephone Numbers 670-234-6866/9447
Fax No: 670-234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on **January 22, 2024, Manuel Camacho Borja & Angelina Ayuyu Borja**, an immediate family member of **Geraldine A. Borja,** an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. **Ms. Geraldine A. Borja,** an employee of NMHC, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Bpx 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **November 18, 2024.**

Dated this 28th day of October, 2024.

/S/ Zenie P. Mafnas
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Telephone Numbers 670-234-6866/9447
Fax No: 670-234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on **December 28, 2023, Ronnie L. Aguon**, an immediate family member of **Daelina T. Aguon,** an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. **Ms. Aguon,** an employee of NMHC, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Bpx 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **November 18, 2024**.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2024.

/S/ Zenie P. Mafnas
Corporate Director

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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on **January 23, 2024, Rita Reyes Fitial,** an immediate family member of **Jennifer Muna Reyes**, an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. **Ms. Reyes,** an employee of NMHC, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Bpx 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **November 18, 2024.**

Dated this 28th day of October, 2024.

/S/ Zenie P. Mafnas
Corporate Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 220

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Lessons from East Palestine have yet to be made law. That must change

Despite the scale and complexity of last year's Norfolk Southern train derailment disaster in East Palestine, Ohio, there is bipartisan legislation in Congress that may actually codify some of the lessons learned from the tragedy—creating lasting changes and taking steps towards preventing future tragedies. However, since the Railway Safety Enhancement Act's (RSEA) introduction this July, the bill hasn't advanced in the legislature.

The February 2023 accident derailed 38 train cars, including 11 tanker cars carrying hazardous materials which then ignited, threatening the residents of East Palestine. The chaotic aftermath and containment efforts included a planned detonation which sent up a massive black plume of smoke that wafted across the region.

Besides addressing some of the brass tacks failures, the RSEA attempts to tackle more systemic issues that have plagued the freight railway sector for decades, like modernizing the movement of information across private and public agencies and combating the retaliatory system for reporting rail safety hazards.

After the accident, important information on the train's contents wasn't passed on to local emergency personnel for roughly an hour, a critical window during which response was crippled and evacuations were delayed. The RSEA provides funding for an app which will show emergency responders what hazardous chemicals are moving through their communities in real time, a long-overdue modernization of communications that allows existing data to be shared more seamlessly.

The measure also creates a Confidential Close Call Reporting System, which employees of large freight companies can use to report safety issues confidentially. For years, railroad union officials have described an environment in which reporting safety issues was punished. The RSEA will ensure that professional rail engineers will no longer fear reprisals for insisting on safety.

These important legislative updates will finally codify many recommendations put forth by the toothless National Transportation Safety Board. As the Post-Gazette has uncovered, many of these recommendations stagnate in committee for years. For example: The NTSB first questioned the reliability of the tanker car that ignited during the East Palestine Derailment way back in 1991, when a study showed their alarming propensity to spill during accidents.

Despite continuous blocking from Senate Republicans, the RSEA has bipartisan sign-offs from the current Biden administration as well as former President Trump, both of Pennsylvania and Ohio's senators (including vice presidential nominee Sen. JD Vance) and many industry labor unions—including the one representing Norfolk Southern workers.

Among the House co-sponsors is U.S. Rep. Chris Deluzio, D-Aspinwall, who also recently introduced important legislation to enforce existing rules giving Amtrak passenger trains priority over freight along the country's rail network. His involvement is only natural: 95% of his constituents live within five miles of the derailment site.

It will soon be two years since the East Palestine disaster. That anniversary should not pass before the lessons of the accident are put into law.

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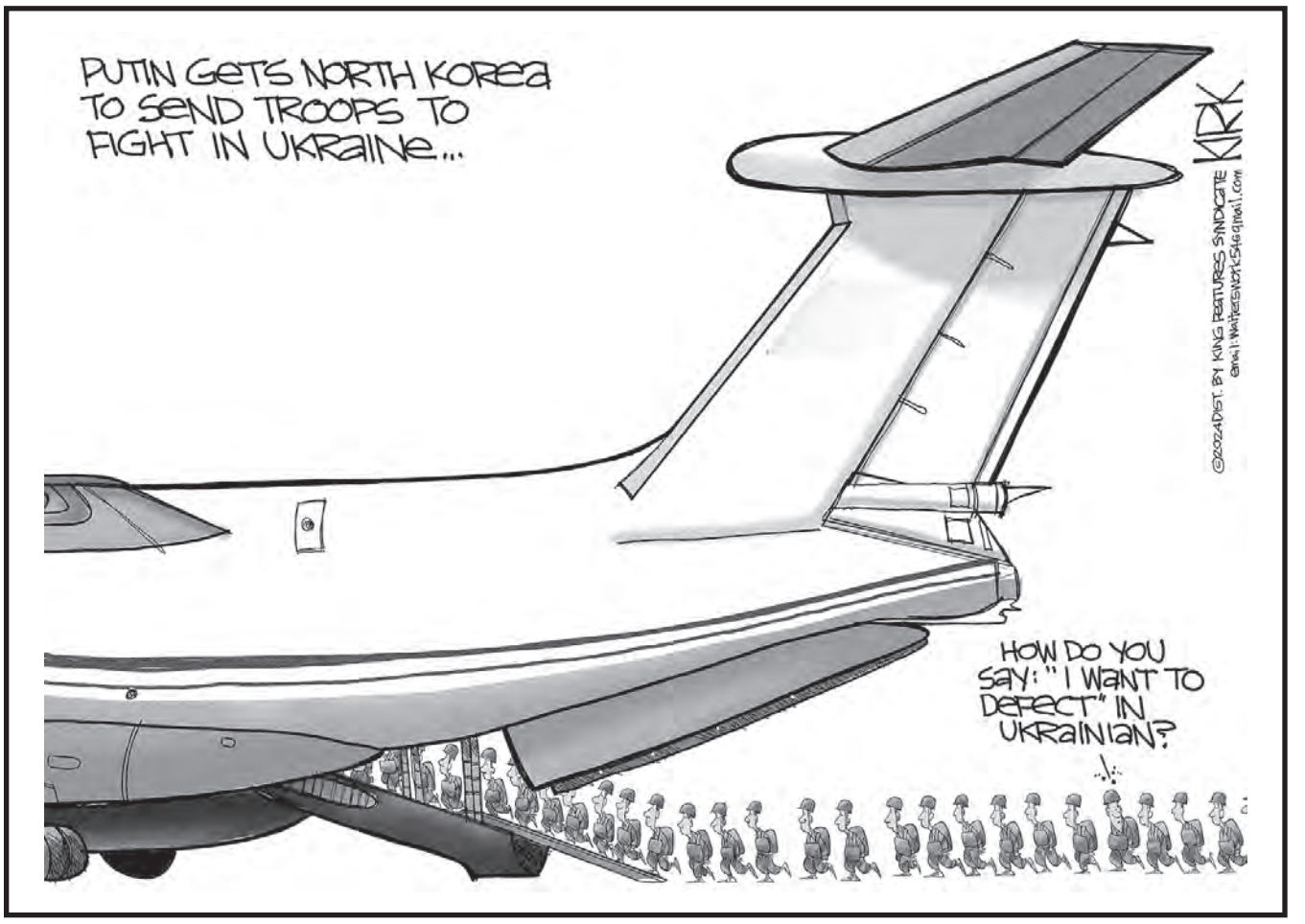
PUTIN GETS NORTH KOREA TO SEND TROOPS TO FIGHT IN UKRAINE...
HOW DO YOU SAY: "I WANT TO DEFECT" IN UKRAINIAN?
KIRK
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Has Trump just repeated the P.R. disaster that cost Herbert Hoover his reelection?

By MICHAEL HILTZIK
Los Angeles Times

Michael Hiltzik is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

"Well, Felix, this elects me."

The speaker was Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was at home in Albany with his friend and adviser Felix Frankfurter, monitoring radio reports of a political disaster unfolding in Herbert Hoover's Washington.

It was 1932. Hoover had dispatched the military to break up a camp of World War I veterans who had massed to demand immediate payment of a bonus they had been promised for serving. News of the cavalry's gassing and trampling of civilians—the slain including an infant born during the nationwide march of the so-called Bonus Army—would dominate the front pages and tar Hoover's public image through the presidential campaign.

Flash forward 92-plus years to Donald Trump's rally Sunday at New York's Madison Square Garden, a bleak, lurid festival of racist hate and profane vituperation so vile that even fellow Republicans, who have turned a blind eye to Trump's character for years, are distancing themselves from the event.

Their fear may be that with this heavily promoted event, the fundamental loathsomeness of Trump's political persona and behavior may break through to the undecided voters he needs to win reelection.

The occasion evokes the line sometimes attributed (perhaps apocryphally) to Mark Twain that "History doesn't always repeat itself, but it often rhymes." For the attack on the Bonus Army and the Madison Square Garden rally share features that could bind them together as campaign turning points.

As Twain might have acknowledged, the comparison isn't perfect—among other differences, the Bonus Army attack occurred on July 28, 1932, in the middle of the presidential campaign, while the Trump rally came only 10 days before election day and after early voting by mail and in person has already started in many states. Trump threatens to turning the military on American citizens to quell demonstrations; Hoover actually did so.

But the events do rhyme. Let's take a look.

Start with the main characters. Hoover and Trump became president after winning their first campaigns for elective office, and both entered the White House as wealthy men. The similarities end there, however.

Hoover had made a name for himself in public service. During World War I he had served as chair of the Belgian Relief Commission, which shipped food to that German-occupied nation, and subsequently as head of the U.S. Food Administration, which aimed to keep food prices stable while the U.S. participated in the war. After war's end, he became director of the American Relief Commission, which provided food relief to the war-torn countries of Europe.

Hoover served as Commerce Secretary for Warren Harding and his successor, Calvin Coolidge—in which role he oversaw the interstate negotiations that would clear the way for construction of the great dam that would bear his name. Trump's public service prior to his election as president was nonexistent.

The two came to their wealth by different paths. Hoover was a self-made man, having earned a degree in engineering as a member of the first graduating class of Stanford University and making a fortune as a mining engineer. Trump inherited his wealth from his father, a real estate developer.

Hoover, like Trump, saw himself as a savior of the nation. "He has wrapped himself in the belief," his secretary of state, Henry Stimson, wrote in his diary, "that the state of the country really depended on his reelection." Trump often claims to be the only person who can save America from war and economic depression. Neither, obviously, saw themselves clearly.

On the Democratic side, Roosevelt and Kamala Harris were scorned by critics as intellectual lightweights, despite having had successful careers in government—Roosevelt as a New York state senator, assistant Navy secretary under Woodrow Wilson, and governor of New York; Harris as San Francisco district attorney, attorney general of California, U.S. senator and vice president.

Despite that, FDR was disdained by former Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. as having "a second-class intellect, but a first-class temperament." Walter Lippmann, the reigning public intellectual of his era, deprecated FDR as "a highly impressionable person, without a firm grasp of public affairs. ... A pleasant man who, without any important qualifications for the office, would very much like to be

See TRUMP on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A courageous advocate in fight against public corruption

CNMI voters:

I am writing to wholeheartedly express my support for Rep. Edwin Propst for the CNMI's delegate in U.S. Congress. His candidacy is a testament to his tireless commitment toward public service and integrity, qualities that have greatly benefited our community throughout his distinguished career.

I have personally known Edwin for most of my life, and he is like a brother to me. This deep personal connection allows me to witness firsthand his genuine dedication and compassion for our community.

Edwin has served as a member of the CNMI House of Representatives with dedication and distinction. First elected in 2014, he has consistently been a top vote-getter, reflecting the trust and confidence the people have in his leadership. Currently serving as the floor leader of the House, Edwin's roles have equipped him with the skills to collaborate effectively with colleagues and address vital issues such as education, healthcare, and the economy.

Throughout his time in office, Edwin has stood by our side during challenging times. Together, we have rebuilt after super typhoons, navigated a global pandemic, and tackled corruption. He has voluntarily gone house to house after each major storm, assisting those impacted without seeking personal recognition. This humility and genuine care for others are qualities that we need in our leaders.

Most importantly, Edwin has been a courageous advocate in the fight against public corruption. Oftentimes, he has been one of but a few voices willing to stand up against those in power who are not accustomed to being challenged. His commitment to transparency and accountability has often resulted in personal attacks and vilification from those threatened by his resolve. This willingness to confront difficult issues head-on showcases his extraordinary courage and unwavering dedication to serving our community.

Edwin is strongly endorsed by a majority of his colleagues from both parties, as well as independents. That support represents his ability to reach across the aisle to get things done, something he will have to do in Washington, D.C. He has also earned the support of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and outgoing Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan. This widespread backing underscores his capability and readiness to represent us at the national level. I truly believe that a unified voice coming from our islands will achieve more for our community in Congress.

As an individual who cares deeply for these islands, I am fully confident that Edwin's representation for us in Congress will bring about positive change for the CNMI.

I would like to encourage you to vote and to join me in support of the candidacy of Rep. Edwin Propst to U.S. Congress. Together we can make sure our voices are heard and our future is bright under his capable leadership.

Thank you for your consideration of this important decision. Let us stand together to support a candidate who possesses the ingredients of integrity, dedication, and passion toward community service. I am confident that he will represent us well and that he will always be there for us!

Glen Hunter
Via email

TRUMP

From page 6

President."

Trump and his cohorts incessantly demean Harris as—to quote the ever-fading Tucker Carlson at the Sunday Trump rally—a "low-IQ former California prosecutor."

The Republican Parties of 1932 and 2024 were fragmented entities when they nominated their presidential candidates.

Hoover had proven during his term to be a technocrat utterly without political skills. GOP insurgents (led by Harold Ickes, who would go on to serve FDR as interior secretary) had mounted a "dump Hoover" movement at their national convention; it collapsed for lack of a candidate to take up the colors.

Trump prevailed at the 2024 GOP convention, though not without challenges from candidates fearful of his lack of appeal outside a core right-wing base—former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley collected a strong 40% of the vote in a series of primaries, but not enough to carry her to the nomination.

That brings us to what might be the turning points in both Republican campaigns.

For Hoover, it was his response to the Bonus Army. This was a national movement for early payment of a stipend Congress had voted for veterans of the war at a cost of up to $4 billion—but which was not scheduled to be redeemed until 1945. Veterans could borrow from the government against their bonus certifications, but only at a high rate of interest.

As the Depression tightened its grip on the nation in 1931 and amid soaring unemployment and the spread of shantytowns of dispossessed Americans known as "Hoovervilles," veterans began to gather in Washington, uncorking fears of civil disorder.

Among their targets was Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon, who was steadfast against early redemption. (Among Mellon's grandchildren is Timothy Mellon, who is the largest individual contributor to the Trump campaign and other Republicans in this election cycle.)

The Bonus Expeditionary Force, as the Bonus marchers called themselves, originated in Portland, Oregon, with an unemployed ex-sergeant named Walter W. Waters as its commander. They started to move east — "hundreds of thousands of men, women, children, and babies ... walking, hitchhiking, hopping freights," as Paul Dickson and Thomas B. Allen reported in their 2004 book about the Bonus Army.

Most of the marchers fell away en route, but by the end of June a Hooverville-like camp housing as many as 15,000 bedraggled men and their families had sprung up in the desolate, muddy Anacostia Flats area of Washington. They were fed with donated food, treated at a medical clinic set up on the grounds, and mounted a series of marches to Capitol Hill, where a bill to accelerate the bonus payments to the present day was being debated. (It passed the House but was defeated in the Senate.)

Hoover and his aides became progressively more fretful about the settlement at Anacostia Flats, especially when its organizers began to talk about making it permanent. There was talk about its having been infiltrated by Communists and rumors of planned violence. Hoover decided early in July to have the marchers evicted and placed the responsibility in the hands of the Army chief of staff, Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

MacArthur assumed the task of deploying tanks, bayonets and tear gas on fellow citizens enthusiastically, calling the camp residents "insurrectionists." The prospect appalled MacArthur's adjutant, Maj. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who claimed later that he tried to convince his superior that the job was beneath someone of his rank. MacArthur rebuffed him.

On July 28, the attack began, including cavalry troops under the command of Major George S. Patton. Two veterans were killed in the operation and 55 injured. A 12-week-old baby died after being tear-gassed. The tent camp in Anacostia was burned to the ground.

The following day, Hoover issued a statement explaining that he had acted to prevent the government from being "coerced by mob rule." He kept petulantly defending his actions to the end of his life. In his memoirs he accused the Democrats of distorting the event, implying "that I had murdered veterans on the streets of Washington." He charged that the Bonus march had been largely "organized and promoted by the Communists and included a large number of hoodlums and ex-convicts."

As it happened, Roosevelt as president was no more willing to pay the bonus early than Hoover and Mellon had been. In 1936, Congress overwhelmingly passed a measure to pay the bonus immediately — over FDR's veto.

The ramifications of the Bonus Army attack live on. It set the stage for the creation of a vast administrative infrastructure of aid for service members and veterans, starting with enactment of the GI Bill, which paid for tuition, textbooks and supplies (and $50 a month for living expenses) to grant returning veterans a college education, making American society into a meritocracy.

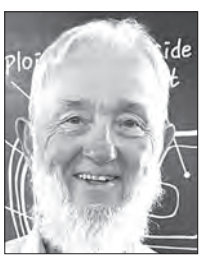
The bill was signed by Franklin Roosevelt in June 1944, a couple of weeks after allied troops cross the English channel on D-Day.

It also stands as a warning for Trump that taking military action against civilians will inspire a massive public backlash, which in that case contributed—no one can say how much—to Franklin Roosevelt's landslide defeat of Hoover just over three months later. Roosevelt's presidency established a new principle in American politics through the New Deal, that government exists to succor all its people, not just the wealthy.

Red Caesarism: Racist and fascist pluralism

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.

POTUS 45 a M.A.N.I.C. in a PANIC

(Malignant And Narcissistic Illiterate Conman)
or: DONALD'S DOUBLE DOWN DENIAL
(Dumping Trump, the would-be dictator King,
back into his MAGA 'garbage' campaign thing.)
If you don't know him by now? Find out how:

I am the real 'enemy within… check it out
What else do I need to say?... there is no doubt
I have the enemy within me… put money out
All the time every single day… give it a shout.

With rancor, retribution, revenge, full of hate
with a 'bigly' daily dose of deep denials and
a word salad sandwich on my Trump steak plate
projecting lies and hypocrisy with fake smiles.

Now I drop the 'sh..'bomb on our USA VP
and in describing countries and people of color
at all my racist rallies and on national TV
my insulting degrading mind gets duller .

J.D. Vance compared me to Hitler once
So I made him my vice presidential dunce.

I JUST DON'T WANNA VOTE FOR YOU

(a deep-fried dose of doggerel on DJT)

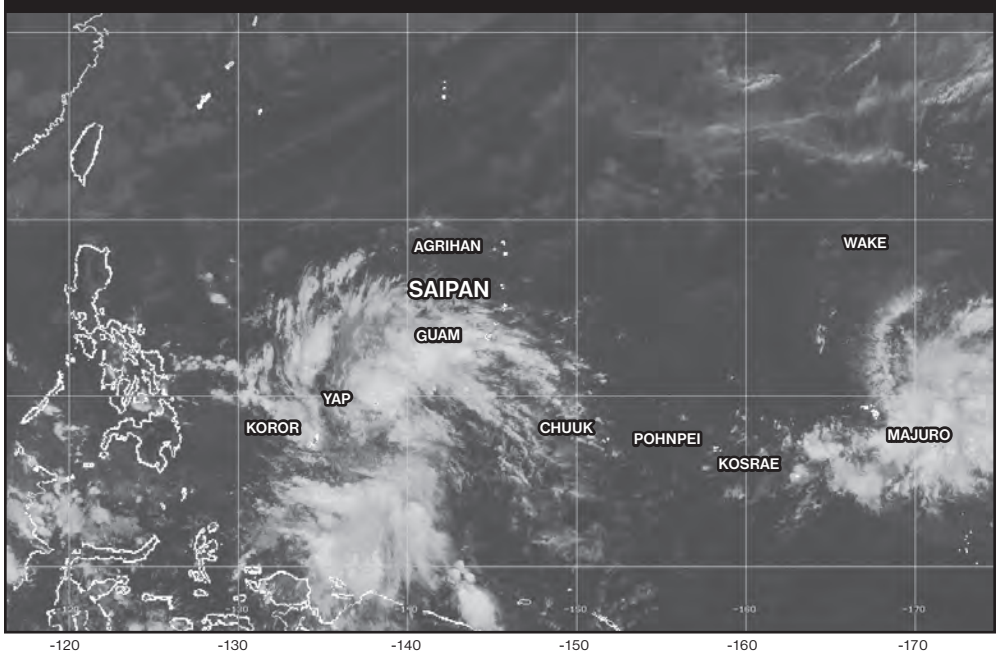
Chorus: Don't let the MAGA far Right wing
know what the Left leaning wing do. (repeat)
if you do you will confuse the whole crew.
Don't let Trumpistas hear what Donald said
if they do they might vote for Harris instead.
Condemn the Puerto Rico island garbage slur
it shows Trump's racist leanings for sure.
Read their policies, join the Harris/Walz waltz
and cast your ballot in the voting ballot vaults.
Have talks with others about what you think
don't let ideas of rights and democracy sink.
Beware of conspiracy theories of the right wing
check all the facts and do the right thing. Vote.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny.	Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.
86° 79°	87° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 80°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:36 AM SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Increasing showers across Guam and Rota this morning. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms at times through Monday due to subtle passing troughs and convergence north of tropical disturbance Invest 90W that is approaching Yap Proper, mainly for Guam and Rota. After Monday, a drier pattern looks to set up across the Marianas with isolated to low end (30%) scattered showers forecasted.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Sunny	85° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Sunny	87° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Tuesday	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Thursday	6:15 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:15 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:18 AM	7:38 PM	-
Tuesday	9:14 AM	8:30 PM	-
Wednesday	10:09 AM	9:26 PM	-
Thursday	11:03 AM	10:25 PM	-
Friday	11:54 AM	11:24 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	70° / 57°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 39°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	82° / 72°
Honolulu	Showers	86° / 73°
London	Showers	54° / 45°
Los Angeles	Sunny	75° / 55°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
New York	Sunny	55° / 48°
Osaka	Cloudy	68° / 55°
Paris	Showers	55° / 48°
Busan	Sunny	66° / 52°
Rome	Showers	68° / 61°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	65° / 53°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 47°
Seoul	Sunny	66° / 41°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Washington, DC	Sunny	58° / 45°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:56 AM	Low Tide	-0.30
10:02 AM	High Tide	1.70
3:26 PM	Low Tide	1.16
8:04 PM	High Tide	1.63

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily up to Oct 26
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily from Oct 28
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily up to Oct 27
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily up to Oct 26
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily up to Oct 26
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily from Oct 27

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
7C2306/3211	11:10PM	3:30PM+1	Daily from Oct 27
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily up to Oct 26
7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily from Oct 27
TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily up to Oct 27
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Floramixed Flowers & Gift Shop blooms with guidance from SBDC

Floramixed Flowers & Gift Shop, located on Espana Street in Gualo Rai is blossoming into the local community with the support and guidance of the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network at the Northern Marianas College.

Owned and operated by Rolando Gianan, the shop specializes in vibrant floral arrangements and unique gifts, and is making its mark with the assistance of CNMI SBDCN.

Floramixed Flowers & Gift Shop originally sought out SBDC for help navigating the complexities of starting a business, including obtaining a business license and zoning permits. With personalized 1:1 counseling from a business advisor, Gianan received the support needed to turn a longtime dream into reality.

"I was hesitant to venture out and start my own shop, but with the encouragement of my counselor and the support of my family, I decided it was time to start my own small business," said Gianan.

"The CNMI SBDCN was there every step of the way, offering tailored services and regular check-ins to make sure I stayed on track."

SBDC

Floramixed Flowers & Gift Shop offers beautiful, custom floral arrangements.

Through SBDC, Gianan also gained invaluable insight and attended his first business event, the CNMI SBDC Christmas in July Small Business Night. "That event gave me the confidence I needed to put myself out there and begin marketing my business," he added.

Since officially opening in September 2024, Floramixed Flowers & Gift Shop has been steadily growing, with plans to expand even further. "I'm just getting started, but I've already spoken to my counselor about seeking grants and microloans to grow the business. My focus now is to reach the community, and CNMI SBDCN is helping me with my marketing plan," said Gianan.

Looking ahead, Gianan plans to continue collaborating with SBDC for future growth, including developing a financial plan and attending more training sessions. "CNMI SBDC will continue to be a resource as I grow my business and seek out more opportunities."

SBDC

Flowers & Gift Shop owner Rolando Gianan credits his business' success to the mentorship provided by the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network at the Northern Marianas College.

Floramixed offers beautiful, custom floral arrangements.

Whether you're looking for fresh, vibrant bouquets or special arrangements for cemetery visits, Floramixed is ready to assist you with personalized service and high-quality blooms. Reach out to Floramixed Flowers & Gift Shop today to ensure your tributes reflect the beauty and reverence of the season.

Customers are encouraged to follow the journey on Instagram (@floramixed.flowers.and.gift.shop) and Facebook facebook.com/floramixed.flowers.and.gift.shop for the latest updates and offerings.

For more information on Floramixed Flowers & Gift Shop or to inquire about services from the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network, please contact CNMI SBDCN at (670) 237-6888 or visit www.cnmisbdc.com. ***(PR)***

TGI Fridays files for bankruptcy protection as sit-down restaurant struggles continue

Restaurant chain TGI Fridays filed for bankruptcy protection Saturday, saying it is looking for ways to "ensure the long-term viability" of the casual dining brand after closing many of its branches this year.

The Dallas-based company's Chapter 11 filing in a Texas federal court accelerates a gradual decline for an iconic chain that was once near the center of American pop culture but has seen its customer base dwindle as tastes changed.

The company has boasted that its bartenders trained Tom Cruise for his role in the 1988 film "Cocktail." Its serving staff's button-filled uniforms, meant to evoke a fun atmosphere, were later parodied in the 1999 satire "Office Space," starring Jennifer Aniston.

Rohit Manocha, executive chairman of TGI Fridays, said in a statement that the "primary driver of our financial challenges resulted from COVID-19 and our capital structure."

Sit-down chain restaurants more broadly have faced challenges in recent years as diners choose to get food delivered or visit upscale fast-food chains like Chipotle and Shake Shack.

In September a U.S. bankruptcy judge approved a reorganization plan for the seafood chain Red Lobster after years of mounting losses. Italian American food chain Buca di Beppo filed for bankruptcy protection in August.

Founded in 1965 as a bar on Manhattan's Upper East Side, TGI Fridays expanded over the following decades to become a ubiquitous suburban gathering spot known for its ribs, potato skins topped with cheese and bacon, and a decor bedecked with red stripes and Tiffany-style lamps.

Its empire peaked in 2008 with 601 restaurants in the U.S. and a $2 billion business, according to Kevin Schimpf, director of industry research at Technomic. Its sales in the U.S. were $728 million in 2023, down 15% from the prior year, according to Technomic.

It now counts 163 restaurants in the U.S., down from 269 last year. It closed 36 in January and dozens more in the past week.

TGI Fridays Inc. said it only owns and operates 39 restaurants in the U.S., which is just a fraction of the 461 TGI Fridays-branded restaurants around the world. A separate entity, TGI Fridays Franchisor, owns the intellectual property and has franchised the brand to 56 independent owners in 41 countries. Those remain open.

A United Kingdom-based franchisee, Hostmore, also sought debt protection in September and abruptly closed locations throughout that country after a failed takeover deal to acquire TGI Fridays.

During the pandemic TGI Fridays made an effort to expand into the delivery market by making itself a hub for so-called ghost kitchens, which have no storefront and only prepare food for delivery. Among the major creditors owed money by TGI Fridays is the delivery service DoorDash, according to Saturday's bankruptcy court filings.

Another iconic U.S. sit-down restaurant, Denny's, announced in October that it is closing 150 of its lowest-performing restaurants in an effort to turn around the brand's flagging sales. ***(AP)***

US employers added just 12K jobs last month

WASHINGTON (AP)— America's employers added just 12,000 jobs in October, a total that economists say was held down by the effects of strikes and hurricanes that left many workers temporarily off payrolls. The report provided a somewhat blurry view of the job market at the end of a presidential race that has pivoted heavily on voters' feelings about the economy.

Last month's hiring gain was down significantly from the 223,000 jobs that were added in September. But economists have estimated that Hurricanes Helene and Milton, combined with strikes at Boeing and elsewhere, had the effect of pushing down net job growth by tens of thousands of jobs in October.

Friday's report from the Labor Department also showed that the unemployment rate remained at 4.1% last month. The low jobless rate suggests that the labor market is still fundamentally healthy, if not as robust as it was early this year. Combined with an inflation rate that has tumbled from its 2022 peak to near pre-pandemic levels, the overall economy appears to be on solid footing on the eve of Election Day.

The government did not estimate how many jobs were likely removed temporarily from payrolls last month. But economists have said they think the storms and strikes caused up to 100,000 jobs to be dropped. Reflecting the impact of the strikes, factories shed 46,000 positions in October.

In a cautionary sign for future hiring, though, temporary job placement firms lost 49,000 jobs last month. Companies often take on temporary workers before committing to full-time employees. On the other hand, healthcare companies added 52,000 jobs in October, and state and local governments tacked on 39,000.

The employment report for October also revised down the government's estimate of the job gains in August and September by a combined 112,000, indicating that the labor market wasn't quite as robust then as initially thought.

"The big one-off shocks that struck the economy in October make it impossible to know whether the job market was changing direction in the month," Bill Adams, chief economist at Comerica Bank, wrote in a commentary. "But the downward revisions to job growth through September show it was cooling before these shocks struck."

Still, economists have noted that the United States has the strongest of the world's most advanced economies, one that has proved surprisingly durable despite the pressure of high interest rates. This week, for example, the government estimated that the economy expanded at a healthy 2.8% annual rate last quarter, with consumer spending helping drive growth.

Yet as voters choose between former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris, large numbers of Americans have said they are unhappy with the state of the economy. Despite the plummeting of inflation, many people are exasperated by high prices, which surged during the recovery from the pandemic recession and remain about 20% higher on average than they were before inflation began accelerating in early 2021.

With inflation having significantly cooled, the Fed is set to cut its benchmark interest rate next week for a second time and likely again in December. The Fed's 11 rate hikes in 2022 and 2023 managed to help slow inflation without tipping the economy into a recession. A series of Fed rate cuts should lead, over time, to lower borrowing rates for consumers and businesses.

Nation

AS THEY EMBARK ON A FINAL WEEKEND PUSH FOR VOTES

Harris, Trump zero in on Sunbelt states

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump zeroed in on the Sun Belt on Saturday as they embarked on one last weekend quest to sway every undecided voter in the battleground states. They pitched rival agendas on the economy—and more—that each insisted is what Americans want.

"We have overcome every attack, every abuse and even two assassination attempts," Trump said at a rally in Gastonia, North Carolina, outside Charlotte. "And now it all comes down to this."

Harris has been urging her supporters to vote early so she can be elected and provide the "new generation of leadership" that she argues she represents.

"I am ready to offer that leadership as the next president of the United States of America," she said during remarks at a rally at the Atlanta Civic Center parking lot. She had to pause a few times to allow medics to attend to people who had fainted after spending hours in the heat.

"It's hot out here, Atlanta," the vice president said.

It was unclear whether Harris herself had voted early. Campaign spokesperson Michael Tyler said Saturday that Harris plans to vote by mail, but he could not say whether she had returned her ballot to her home state of California.

AP

This combination of photos shows Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, left, speaking during a rally in Charlotte, N.C., Sept. 12, 2024, and Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump, right, speaking during a rally in Warren, Mich., Nov. 1, 2024.

Trump was expected to vote in person on Tuesday in Florida.

"Anybody here already voted?" she asked the Atlanta crowd, which cheered loudly in response. "Oh wow. Oh my goodness. Thank you, thank you."

It was part of a final, frenzied push by Harris, Trump, their running mates and their high-profile stand-ins to encourage people to vote early or in person on Tuesday, Election Day.

Harris' campaign hoped for a "high-impact" moment with a two-minute spot to air Sunday during NFL games on CBS and FOX, including the Green Bay Packers against the Detroit Lions, two swing state teams. It shows Harris interacting with people during the campaign and talking directly to viewers.

"Now I'm asking for your vote because as president I will get up every day and fight for the American people," she says at the end.

Harris Campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon projected confidence Saturday on a conference call with reporters as both sides embarked on that final sprint to get out the vote. "If you can hear the joy in my voice it is because we are in GOTV weekend," she said.

Trump, meanwhile, spoke wistfully, as he has at some of his recent rallies, about how after nearly a decade of campaigning, his final race is nearing its end.

It's a fight to the finish in races that will determine control of Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—The final doors are being knocked, ads are blaring and candidates are making a last pitch to voters. Even with the high-energy final push, the races for control of Congress are at a stalemate, essentially a toss-up for the House and fight to the finish for the Senate.

The outcome of Tuesday's election will shape the country's future, determining whether the new White House has allies or skeptics on Capitol Hill—or faces a divided Congress like this past session, which has been among the most tumultuous and unproductive in modern times.

As voters assess their presidential options between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris, they also are sizing up who will represent them in Congress.

"This is why I'm an independent," said voter Gary Motta of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, who isn't happy with either choice for president, as he showed up at an early Sunday morning event for Republican Kevin Coughlin, who is trying to unseat Democratic Rep. Emilia Sykes.

The struggle for control of Congress has gone on for months. Candidates have tussled over the big issues—the economy, the border, reproductive health care and the future of democracy—but also over Congress itself, which had a chaotic session as the GOP-led House ousted its speaker and barely fended off government shutdowns.

This is the first presidential election since the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, and many Republican lawmakers who voted against certifying Democrat Joe Biden's White House win over Trump are up for reelection.

Republican candidates, many backed by the former president, are finding themselves having to answer for him on several fronts. Among them is the decision by the Supreme Court, with three justices who were nominated by Trump, that ended the right to abortion access

Democrats face tough questions over the Biden-Harris record on the U.S.-Mexico border and on inflation during their time at the White House.

Most of the closely contested House campaigns are being waged beyond the presidential swing states, including in New York and California, where Republican Kevin McCarthy, who was ousted as speaker and then left Congress, had made inroads in his home state. Democrats under New York's Hakeem Jeffries, the party's House leader, are now trying to win them back.

Starting Saturday, California Rep. Pete Aguilar, the Democratic caucus chairman, is making a nine-stop swing through the Golden State to win back seats.

World

BEFORE N. KOREAN TROOPS REACH FRONT

Zelenskyy urges allies to act

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged its allies to stop "watching" and take steps before North Korean troops deployed in Russia reach the battlefield, and the country's army chief warned that his troops are facing "one of the most powerful offensives" by Moscow since the all-out war started more than two years ago.

Zelenskyy raised the prospect of a preemptive Ukrainian strike on camps where the North Korean troops are being trained and said Kyiv knows their location. But he said Ukraine can't do it without permission from allies to use Western-made long-range weapons to hit targets deep inside Russia.

"But instead … America is watching, Britain is watching, Germany is watching. Everyone is just waiting for the North Korean military to start attacking Ukrainians as well," Zelenskyy said in a post late Friday on the Telegram messaging app.

The Biden administration said Thursday that some 8,000 North Korean soldiers are now in Russia's Kursk region near Ukraine's border and are preparing to help the Kremlin fight against Ukrainian troops in the coming days.

On Saturday, Ukraine's military intelligence said that more than 7,000 North Koreans equipped with Russian gear and weapons had been transported to areas near Ukraine. The agency, known by its acronym GUR, said that North Korean troops were being trained at five locations in Russia's Far East. It did not specify its source of information.

Western leaders have described the North Korean troop deployment as a significant escalation that could also jolt relations in the Indo-Pacific region, and open the door to technology transfers from Moscow to Pyongyang that could advance the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile program.

North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui met with her Russian counterpart in Moscow on Friday.

Ukrainian leaders have repeatedly said they need permission to use Western weapons to strike arms depots, airfields and military bases far from the border to motivate Russia to seek peace. In response, U.S. defense officials have argued that the missiles are limited in number, and that Ukraine is already using its own long-range drones to hit targets farther into Russia.

Moscow has also consistently signaled that it would view any such strikes as a major escalation. President Vladimir Putin warned on Sept. 12 that Russia would be "at war" with the U.S. and NATO states if they approve them.

Zelenskyy's call came shortly before Ukraine's top commander, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, said on Saturday that his troops are struggling to stem "one of the most powerful offensives" by Russia since its all-out invasion of its southern neighbor in February 2022.

Iran's supreme leader threatens Israel, US with 'a crushing response'

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iran's supreme leader on Saturday threatened Israel and the U.S. with "a crushing response" over attacks on Iran and its allies.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei spoke as Iranian officials are increasingly threatening to launch yet another strike against Israel after its Oct. 26 attack on the Islamic Republic that targeted military bases and other locations and killed at least five people.

Any further attacks from either side could engulf the wider Middle East, already teetering over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and Israel's ground invasion of Lebanon, into a wider regional conflict just ahead of the U.S. presidential election this Tuesday.

"The enemies, whether the Zionist regime or the United States of America, will definitely receive a crushing response to what they are doing to Iran and the Iranian nation and to the resistance front," Khamenei said in video released by Iranian state media.

The supreme leader did not elaborate on the timing of the threatened attack, nor the scope. The U.S. military operates on bases throughout the Middle East, with some troops now manning a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, battery in Israel.

The USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier likely is in the Arabian Sea, while Pentagon press secretary Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said Friday that more destroyers, fighter squadrons, tankers and B-52 long-range bombers would be coming to the region to deter Iran and its militant allies.

The 85-year-old Khamenei had struck a more cautious approach in earlier remarks, saying officials would weigh Iran's response and that Israel's attack "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed." Iran has launched two major direct attacks on Israel, in April and October.

But efforts by Iran to downplay the Israeli attack faltered as satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press showed damage to military bases near Tehran linked to the country's ballistic missile program, as well as at a Revolutionary Guard base used in satellite launches.

Iran's allies, called the "Axis of Resistance" by Tehran, also have been severely hurt by ongoing Israeli attacks, particularly Lebanon's Hezbollah and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Iran long has used those groups as both an asymmetrical way to attack Israel and as a shield against a direct assault. Some analysts believe those groups want Iran to do more to back them militarily.

Iran, however, has been dealing with its own problems at home, as its economy struggles under the weight of international sanctions and it has faced years of widespread, multiple protests. After Khamenei's speech, the Iranian rial fell to 691,500 against the dollar, near an all-time low. It had been 32,000 rials to the dollar when Tehran reached its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Gen. Mohammad Ali Naini, a spokesman for Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard which controls the ballistic missiles needed to target Israel, gave an interview published by the semiofficial Fars news agency just before Khamenei's remarks were released. In it, he warned Iran's response "will be wise, powerful and beyond the enemy's comprehension."

Life & Style

Heidi Klum and Janelle Monáe wear elaborate E.T. costumes for their Halloween parties

NEW YORK (AP)—Heidi Klum and Janelle Monáe opted for out-of-this-world Halloween costumes this year—both choosing to dress as the stubby alien E.T. for their parties on opposite coasts.

While the similar costumes will likely spark "who wore it best" debates that are popular in celebrity magazines, the stars chose different interpretations of the creature from Steven Spielberg's 1982 classic, "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial."

Klum's husband Tom Kaulitz dressed as E.T., while the model and television personality came as E.T. similar to how the alien looked after being dressed up by Drew Barrymore's character in the movie, complete with a blonde wig and round hat. The costume featured animatronic eyes, a long neck, a blonde wig and a long index finger that lit up, just like the movie version.

Monáe told People magazine that she'd been planning the costume for two years, and appeared in two different versions Thursday night.

She arrived at her Halloween party as a stubbier version of the diminutive alien, waddling on the red carpet in a costume the required her to move around on her knees. The Grammy winner's E.T. also had animatronic eyes and a yellow index finger but she adopted a stilted, otherwordly voice similar to the character's when doing interviews Thursday. She downplayed any rivalry with Klum, telling The Associated Press, "There can be two Hallo-queens. I love Heidi."

AP

Heidi Klum attends Heidi Klum's 23rd annual Halloween party on Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024, at Hard Rock Hotel New York in New York.

Later in the evening, she changed into a taller E.T. costume that allowed her to walk freely and dance. Both versions featured the alien in a tuxedo.

Klum and Monáe take Halloween seriously, with each donning elaborate costumes. This year, their Halloween night parties played out on opposite coasts, with Klum gathering celebrity friends in New York and Monáe hosting her party in Los Angeles.

Klum's face was in the creature's neck, allowing her to see and speak. She told the AP her costume had been in the works for a year.

"I have been a fan of E.T. since I was 9 years old," Klum said. As she spoke, the mouth of her costume head moved thanks to the mechanical features inside the suit.

"I just love becoming this thing. E.T. is very small and so I thought it would be fun to kind of play with the proportions too," Klum said.

Klum and Kaulitz touched their heads tenderly after unveiling their costumes amid smoke and a light show at Klum's party.

Monáe revealed her E.T. costume on Wednesday on "The Jennifer Hudson Show." She also did an elaborate photo shoot posted on Instagram where she appeared riding a bike with E.T. in a basket on front, an homage to one of the most iconic moments of Spielberg's film.

MrBeast probe ends with some employees fired but finds no proof of sexual misconduct allegations

NEW YORK (AP)—Online video production company MrBeast said Friday it has fired somewhere between 5 to 10 employees following an investigation into the YouTube empire's workplace culture.

A company spokesman declined to put a precise number on the firings, say which employees were let go or for what reasons. But the shakeup comes as Jimmy Donaldson, who draws millions of views under the MrBeast alias with highly produced stunts and giveaways, deals with accusations of impropriety against himself, his collaborators and others within his multimillion-dollar production company that have threatened his family-friendly image.

Donaldson

Investigators only identified "several isolated instances of workplace harassment and misconduct," according to a two-page letter sent Friday by Alex Spiro, a trial lawyer who led the investigation by white-shoe law firm Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan and whose clients have included Jay-Z and Elon Musk.

The nearly three-month probe concluded that there was no basis behind allegations that MrBeast team members committed sexual misconduct or "knowingly" employed people with "proclivities or histories towards illegal or questionable legal conduct."

Spiro said the team interviewed 39 current and former employees. Millions of documents from phones, emails, and messaging platforms including Discord and Slack were also reviewed, according to the letter.

The controversies surrounding the so-called King of YouTube began snowballing this summer. Ava Tyson, a Donaldson friend and fellow creator accused of sharing inappropriate sexual messages with minors over multiple years, left the channel in July. Also circulated online by YouTuber Rosanna Pansino was a 2017 recording of Donaldson making racist comments and using homophobic slurs.

At 50, Hello Kitty is as 'kawaii' and lucrative as ever

TOKYO (AP)—Hello Kitty turns 50 on Friday. Befitting a pop icon at midlife, the bubble-headed, bow-wearing character's fictional birthday has brought museum exhibits, a theme park spectacle and a national tour. And that's just in Japan, her literal birthplace but not the one listed in her official biography.

Confused? Welcome to the party. If there's one thing about Hello Kitty, it's that she's proven adaptable and as much a study in contrasts during her long career. She—and Kitty is a she, according to the company that owns her—may have been conceived as a vessel for the feelings of others, but some women see an empowering symbol in her mouthless face.

"Shrewd" is how Mika Nishimura, a design professor at Tokyo's Meisei University, describes the way Hello Kitty conquered the worlds of commerce, fashion and entertainment. As a tabula rasa open to interpretation, the non-threatening creation was the perfect vehicle for making money, she said.

"American feminists have said she doesn't say anything and acquiesces to everyone. But in Japan, we also see how she may appear happy if you're happy, and sad if you're feeling sad," Nishimura told The Associated Press. "It's a product strategy that's sheer genius. By being so adaptable, Kitty gets all those collaborative deals."

The character's semicentennial is evidence of that. Sanrio, the Japanese entertainment company that holds the rights to Hello Kitty's name and image, kicked off the festivities a year ago with an animation account on TikTok, Roblox games and an avatar for the social networking app Zepeto.

There have been anniversary editions of merchandise ranging from pet collars, cosmetics and McDonald's Happy Meals to Crocs and a Baccarat crystal figurine. A gold coin pendant with the image of Hello Kitty holding the number 50 is selling for about 120,000 yen ($800), while a Casio watch costs 18,700 yen ($120).

But first, more on the origin story.

Unlike Mickey Mouse and Snoopy, Hello Kitty didn't start as a cartoon. A young Sanrio illustrator named Yuko Shimizu drew her in 1974 as a decoration for stationery, tote bags, cups and other small accessories. The design made its debut on a coin purse the next year and became an instant hit in Japan.

Relatives' estate planning left siblings out in the cold

DEAR ABBY: When my husband, "Sid," was a young adult, his mother died by suicide. A few years later, when his maternal grandparents died, his mother's two siblings inherited his grandparents' estate. Other family members have commented that it seemed wrong for Sid and his sister to be disinherited from their mother's share of the estate. Because Sid and his sister were young adults, they didn't have enough confidence or support to question their aunt and uncle. Their father was out of the picture.

Forty years later, this is still a source of pain for Sid and his sister. They feel they were intentionally disinherited, while their closest relatives act like nothing is wrong. Is there a way to approach the family to resolve this pain?

SAD FOR SID IN NEVADA

DEAR SAD: I strongly suspect that that ship sailed 40 years ago. However, I am not a lawyer. Your husband and his sister should ask an attorney who specializes in wills, estates and trusts this question to see what exactly happened back then and if anything can be done now to change it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I will turn 18 in six months. I know I should be happy, but to be completely honest with you, I'm scared to become an adult. I don't feel I'm ready to grow up and leave my childhood behind. What should I do? What CAN I do?

UNHAPPY BIRTHDAY

DEAR UNHAPPY: What, precisely, are you afraid of? All people do not mature at the same rate. It takes some individuals until they are well over the age of 21 to assume the responsibilities of being an adult. Others are ready at 18, provided they have already been given some responsibilities by their parents. The insecurities you are experiencing are things you should be talking about with them. You might also discuss this with a trusted teacher or counselor at school. If you do, you may realize that you are far from alone in the feelings you are having.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been unlucky in love ever since I started dating, and I'm feeling like I just can't put myself out there again. My last relationship looked promising—I even saw a wedding on the horizon—but my partner cheated on me, and it all fell apart. Now I'm scared. This is just the latest in a long string of bad relationships. How can I keep dating if I'm feeling so hopeless? Am I just not cut out for the "married with 2.5 kids" life?

FAILURE IN OREGON

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR FAILURE: Considering your mindset, I'm not sure you should be dating right now. Your time might be better spent trying to figure out what went wrong in each of those failed relationships, because your problem may not be the kind of men you are attracting, but those you are attracted TO.

If there are common denominators among those men in your past, it would benefit you to recognize what they are so you won't be hurt again. In the meantime, occupy yourself with friends and activities you enjoy. It's an effective way to combat depression, and it may also give you an opportunity to make some new acquaintances.

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Pastimes

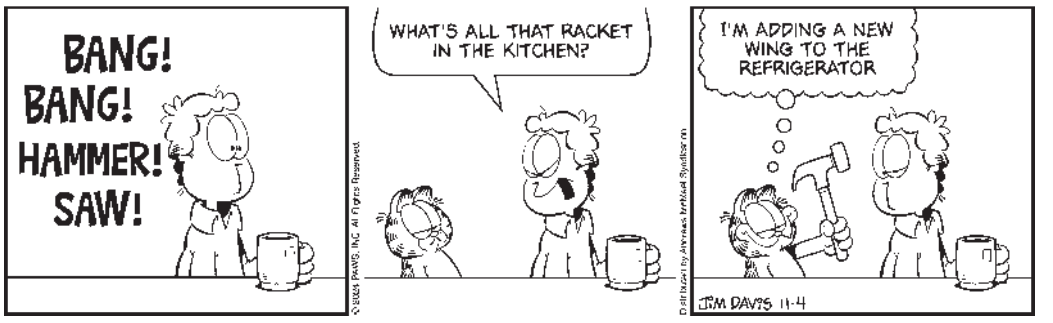
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HI SUSIE. WHAT DID YOU BRING FOR LUNCH TODAY?
A SWISS CHEESE AND KETCHUP SANDWICH.
ITS MY VERY FAVORITE, TOO, SO I DON'T WANT TO HEAR WHAT GROSS THING YOU BROUGHT.
RELAX, SUSIE. I BOUGHT THE CAFETERIA LUNCH TODAY.
GOOD.
IT APPEARS TO BE CIGAR BUTTS IN A GALLSTONE SAUCE.
THAT'S BEANY-WIENIES!
REALLY? OH GROSS.

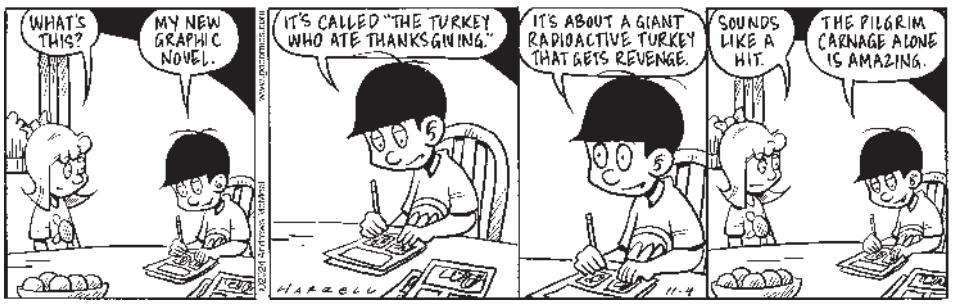
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



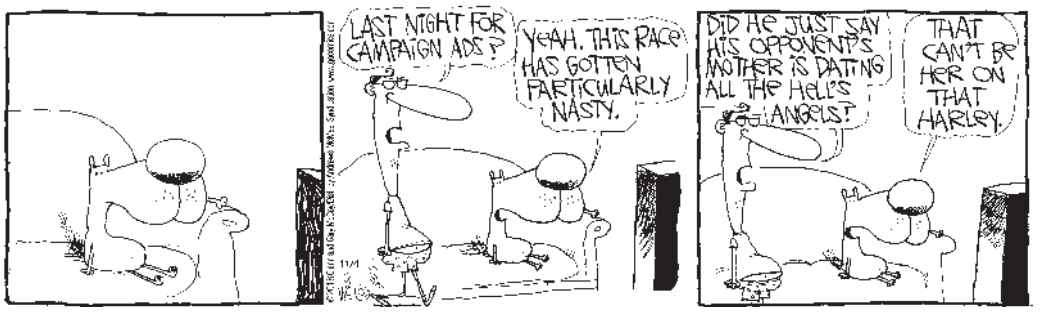
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S THIS?
MY NEW GRAPHIC NOVEL.
IT'S CALLED "THE TURKEY WHO ATE THANKSGIVING."
IT'S ABOUT A GIANT RADIOACTIVE TURKEY THAT GETS REVENGE.
SOUNDS LIKE A HIT.
THE PILGRIM CARNAGE ALONE IS AMAZING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


LAST NIGHT FOR CAMPAIGN ADS?
YEAH. THIS RACE HAS GOTTEN PARTICULARLY NASTY.
DID HE JUST SAY HIS OPPONENT'S MOTHER IS DATING ALL THE HELL'S ANGELS?
THAT CAN'T BE HER ON THAT HARLEY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

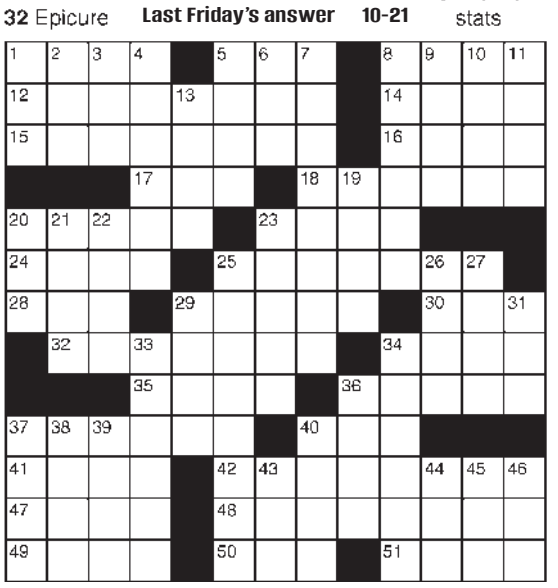
ACROSS
1 Attempt
5 Smartphone download
8 Actor Kinnear
12 "Wonka" star Chalamet
14 Car
15 Heart-rending
16 Goose egg
17 Gloomy guy
18 Used a car service
20 Type of wheat
23 Amorphous sci-fi villain
24 Skin opening
25 Church officials
28 "Hulk" director Lee
29 Disco queen Summer
30 Yucatan "Bravo!"
32 Epicure
34 Courts
35 Maui souvenirs
36 Overindulge
37 B vitamin
40 Pantheon member
41 Cruise stop
42 Self-important
47 Queen dowager of Jordan
48 Made tidy
49 Small bills
50 Plaything
51 Body pics

DOWN
1 NASCAR sponsor
2 Uncle, to Pedro
3 Parisian pal
4 Word game with dice
5 Cries of discovery
6 Stock holder
7 Peevish
8 Garden pavilion
9 Contrite person
10 To be, in Tours
11 Suitable
13 Threaded fastener
19 — Raton, Fla.
20 Hotel amenity
21 Ping- —
22 Thus
23 "Seinfeld" character Elaine
25 Prevailing
26 Lunch hour
27 Trudge
29 Zwei follower
31 Jargon suffix
33 Stomach woes
34 Thingie
36 Italy's silhouette
37 Boy, in Barcelona
38 "The heat —!"
39 Lotion additive
40 Battleship color
43 Old Oldsmobile
44 Comedian Gasteyer
45 Mosquito barrier
46 Pro Bowl stats

Solution time: 21 mins.

W	A	S	■	G	N	A	T	■	D	A	S	H
D	N	A	■	L	A	R	A	■	O	N	T	O
S	A	L	V	A	G	E	D	■	O	N	E	S
■	■	■	A	I	R	S	■	E	D	A	M	S
F	A	R	C	E	■	F	E	T	A	■	■	■
O	B	I	E	■	G	R	A	N	D	D	A	D
A	B	E	■	K	E	I	R	A	■	I	P	O
L	A	S	T	C	A	L	L	■	P	S	S	T
■	■	■	H	U	R	L	■	W	I	P	E	S
S	H	E	E	P	■	■	O	R	E	O	■	■
C	O	N	S	■	R	E	V	E	R	S	A	L
O	L	D	E	■	E	V	E	S	■	A	M	O
T	A	O	S	■	D	A	R	T	■	L	A	X

Last Friday's answer 10-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Tomlinson, 31; Matthew McConaughey, 55; Ralph Macchio, 63; Kathy Griffin, 64.

Happy Birthday: Set goals, press play and continue until you get the desired results. A positive spin, creativity and accumulating information will encourage confidence and success. Sign up for lectures that offer insight into your options, and you will come up with a unique plan and path forward. Don't limit what you can achieve or let anyone deter you from following your dream. Dig in and flourish. Your numbers are 4, 12, 23, 29, 32, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Tune in to what's happening around you. Observation and conversation will turn into an opportunity that can change your life forever. Refrain from putting off what you can do now; the momentum you muster up will lead to success. Physical and emotional changes will boost your morale. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Keep tabs on your expenditures. Impress people with your wisdom, ability to transition from one thing to another and hands-on approach to getting things done on time. Solidify your position, join forces with someone you admire and commit wholeheartedly to whatever you believe. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Agree only to the changes that benefit you. Distance yourself from anyone putting pressure on you to do something that can compromise your position, budget or reputation. Open a dialogue that encourages addressing issues that can come back to haunt you. Clear the air, breathe easy and follow through. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21- July 22):* Embrace freedom and use your ingenuity to recognize what's available and works best for you. Be open about what you want and how you plan to make your dreams come true. Enjoy the ride and establish a foundation that best supports your talents, budget and time frame. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Put your energy behind your ideas. Go where the action is and step into the spotlight. An aggressive and colorful display will draw attention and encourage positive contributions from people eager to help you reach your goals. Networking events will open doors, and personal gain looks promising. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep your thoughts to yourself. Someone will be eager to use what you reveal against you. Dig in and work behind the scenes, perfecting your goals. Dedication and loyalty will bring the highest returns. A meeting, business trip or conference will help determine your next move. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Stop procrastinating and start the ball rolling. If you hesitate, you'll miss out on an opportunity or lose the right to decide for yourself. Embrace life, offer your insight and let your charm, intelligence and connections carry you forward. Be proactive; weakness will attract scammers, liars and cheaters. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A positive transformation will attract attention. Revamping your approach to life, updating your style and appearance, and using your insight to achieve financial gains are all doable if you focus on what you want. Rely on intuition when dealing with negative influences or people trying to derail your progress. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Invest time, talent and money in yourself and what you want to pursue. Take your time; display your skills, reach out to people who show interest or have something to contribute and explore the possibilities of a partnership. Go through the proper channels, and choose a signature over a handshake. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Size up situations and make changes that follow the path that leads to peace of mind. Distance yourself from anyone who doesn't give back or tries to take advantage of you. Truth and trust matter; stick to those you feel comfortable dealing with, but refrain from sharing secrets. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* An open mind will become the portal to something exciting. Get involved in events that offer insights into a new approach that encourages you to to turn your findings into something unique to you, your situation and your prospects. The possibilities are endless, and love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take a step back, adjust your position and rethink your path. Let go of what's draining you and embrace what offers peace of mind. Distance yourself from poor influences, indulgent behavior and anyone using emotional manipulation to take advantage of you. Choose to put yourself first. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, generous and opportunistic. You are artistic and persuasive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			1			7		
	3	5	2	7		9	6	
			9	6				1
3	5		7				8	6
2						4	9	5
		4	6	5	2	1		7
		2		8		6	1	
8	1			2	7	5		
4						8		2

Difficulty: ★ 11/4

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

2	1	4	3	6	5	7	9	8
5	7	6	2	8	9	4	1	3
9	3	8	1	7	4	5	6	2
7	8	9	5	1	6	2	3	4
4	5	3	7	9	2	6	8	1
6	2	1	4	3	8	9	7	5
1	9	2	8	5	7	3	4	6
8	4	7	6	2	3	1	5	9
3	6	5	9	4	1	8	2	7

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/1

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MAKE A FRIEND Solution: 9 letters

S	H	A	R	E	E	T	A	I	C	E	R	P	P	A
G	I	G	G	L	E	M	O	C	L	E	W	O	C	C
E	N	N	B	G	E	N	E	R	O	U	S	C	O	A
N	T	T	C	E	T	O	R	P	L	I	E	N	M	R
O	R	I	R	E	S	E	N	I	T	P	F	C	M	I
I	O	Y	L	U	R	T	K	I	T	I	F	T	U	N
T	D	O	L	O	E	E	V	N	D	O	R	L	N	G
A	U	J	G	A	P	E	E	E	R	O	A	A	I	B
S	C	N	R	G	U	M	N	G	P	U	O	I	T	U
R	E	E	O	U	I	T	I	P	G	R	A	C	Y	L
E	P	L	U	L	E	V	U	H	G	Y	A	O	A	C
V	O	I	P	A	E	S	I	M	E	F	D	S	L	K
N	H	M	M	F	A	I	R	N	E	S	S	D	P	O
O	O	S	E	N	I	U	N	E	G	A	M	E	U	O
C	O	N	S	I	D	E	R	A	T	E	V	A	R	B

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Accept, Appreciate, Best, Book Club, Brave, Buddy, Café, Caring, Community, Compliment, Confident, Considerate, Conversation, Enjoy, Fairness, Forgive, Game, Generous, Genuine, Giggle, Giving, Group, Hope, Introduce, Laugh, Like, Mutual, Play, Polite, Positive, Protect, Share, Sincere, Smile, Social, Support, Team, True, Welcome

Last Friday's answer : Vinegar

The NEW **Volume 77** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Adebayo scores 32 points to help Heat beat Wizards in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Bam Adebayo scored 20 of his 32 points in the first half and the Miami Heat beat the Washington Wizards 118-98 on Saturday night in the 14th NBA regular-season game in Mexico.

Adebayo had 14 rebounds and shot 12 of 24 from the field. Jimmy Butler added 18 points, Tyler Herro had 15 and Terry Rozier 12 to help Miami improve to 3-2.

Kel'El Ware added 15 points coming of the bench. Jaime Jaquez Jr. scored eight points in his first game playing in his father's country.

Bilal Coulibaly led Washington (2-3) with 22 points. Jordan Poole added 21 points and Alexandre Sarr had 17.

Before the game, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said the league had reached an agreement with local organizers to play more games in Mexico.

Adebayo has 194 career double-doubles and is 11 away from tying Alonzo Mourning for the second-best in franchise history. Rony Seikaly is the leader with 221.

Coulibaly has scored at least 15 points in a career-best four game span. The 20-year-old was coming of a career-high 27 points against the Atlanta Hawks.

Herro scored five points in 13-3 run in the second quarter that put the Heat ahead 51-34 with less than four minutes to play.

Miami outrebounded Washington 65-44.

AP

Miami Heat Jaime Jaquez Jr., left, and Washington Wizards Jonas Valančiūnas fight for a rebound during the first half of an NBA basketball game, at the Mexico Arena in Mexico City, Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024.

CELTICS 113, HORNETS 103

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Jayson Tatum scored 29 points, Payton Pritchard had 22 points on six 3-pointers and the Boston Celtics beat the Charlotte Hornets 113-103 for the second straight night at the Spectrum Center on Saturday.

Derrick White added 18 points and eight rebounds for the Celtics, who beat the Hornets 124-109 on Friday night. Boston improved to 6-1.

Charlotte's LaMelo Ball eclipsed the 30-point barrier for the fourth time this season, finishing with 36 points on 15-of-26 shooting before fouling out for the second straight game. Brandon Miller had 16 points in his return from a strained glute,

Tatum was just 1 of 9 from beyond the arc, but converted 14 of 17 free throws.

GRIZZLIES 124, 76ERS 107

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 27 points and Memphis rolled to a 124-107 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday night.

Jay Huff added 20 points, and Ja Morant had 18. The Grizzlies have won two straight road games to improve to 4-3.

Tyrese Maxey scored 23 points for Philadelphia. The 76ers lost for the fourth time in five games and fell to 0-3 at home.

The Grizzlies outrebounded the 76ers 52-33. They had a 70-34 margin in the paint, taking advantage of Philadelphia star Joel Embiid's absence.

RAPTORS 131, KINGS 128, OT

TORONTO (AP)—RJ Barrett scored 31 points, Chris Boucher had a season-high 24, and Toronto snapped a four-game losing streak by beating Sacramento.

Toronto's Ochai Agbaji scored a season-high 22 points, and Gradey Dick also had 22.

Domantas Sabonis had 17 points, 20 rebounds and 10 assists for his 60th career triple-double, but it wasn't enough to keep the Kings' three-game win streak alive.

Former Raptor DeMar DeRozan scored 33 points for Sacramento but also missed two 3-pointers to tie in the final minute of overtime.

After DeRozan's first miss, Barrett missed a pair of free throws with nine seconds to go. Both DeRozan and De'Aaron Fox missed 3-pointers on Sacramento's final possession.

WARRIORS 127, ROCKETS 121, OT

HOUSTON (AP)—Buddy Hield scored 27 points and Golden State squandered a huge lead before outlasting Houston in overtime.

It's Golden State's 14th straight-regular season win over the Rockets and the eighth in a row in Houston.

The Warriors led by 31 points in the first half. The Rockets tied it with an 18-2 run to open the fourth quarter.

Golden State scored the first six points in overtime to make it 125-119 and went on to a third straight win without Steph Curry, who is out with a sprained left ankle.

The Warriors led by five before a 3-pointer by Jabari Smith Jr. cut the lead to 119-117 with 15.5 seconds to go in regulation. Aaron Holiday stole the ball from Draymond Green and he fouled out a few seconds later. Tari Eason made two free throws after that to send it to overtime.

CAVALIERS 114, BUCKS 113

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points including a jumper with three-tenths of a second left and Cleveland remained unbeaten with a victory over Milwaukee.

The 7-0 Cavaliers are one win away from matching their best start in franchise history. They won their first eight games in 1976-77.

Milwaukee has lost five straight since winning its opener. The Bucks wasted a brilliant performance from Damian Lillard, who had 41 points with nine assists and shot 10 of 15 from 3-point range.

Lillard had put Milwaukee ahead by hitting a step-back jumper with 9.8 seconds remaining.

SPURS 113, TIMBERWOLVES 103

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Keldon Johnson had 25 points, Chris Paul added 15 points and 13 assists, and San Antonio beat Minnesota without coach Gregg Popovich, who missed the game due to illness.

Jeremy Sochan added 19 points and 10 rebounds for San Antonio, and Victor Wembanyama had 17 points and six rebounds.

The 39-year-old Paul became the second-oldest player in NBA history with 10 assists in consecutive games. Hall of Fame point guard John Stockton of the Utah Jazz accomplished the feat at age 41.

Julius Randle scored 21 points and Anthony Edwards had 18 for Minnesota, playing on the second night of a back-to-back. The Timberwolves arrived at their hotel in San Antonio about 4:15 a.m. after rallying in the final minutes to defeat Denver 119-116 at home Friday night.

NUGGETS 129, JAZZ 103

DENVER (AP)—Nikola Jokic scored 27 points and Michael Porter Jr. had 20 as Denver used a third-quarter offensive surge to beat Utah for their first win of the season at home.

Julian Strawther added 19 points and Christian Braun 17 for the Nuggets, who sent the Jazz to their sixth consecutive loss to start the season. Jokic also had 16 rebounds and nine assists, finishing one assist shy of another triple double.

Utah, the only winless team in the league, was led by Walker Kessler's 18 points and 14 rebounds. Johnny Juzang added 17 points.

SUNS 103, TRAIL BLAZERS 97

PHOENIX (AP)—Devin Booker had 28 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, and Phoenix used a dominant third quarter to beat Portland.

Kevin Durant scored 21 points for Phoenix, which won its fourth in a row.

The Suns led by as many as 26 points, but the Trail Blazers cut the deficit to 99-97 in the final minute. Booker and Tyus Jones each made two free throws in the final 21 seconds to seal the win.

Grayson Allen scored 18 off the bench, making a team-high four 3-pointers. Jones and Bradley Beal each finished with 15 points, while Jusuf Nurkic had a game-high 15 rebounds.

Trailing 47-43 at halftime, Phoenix scored 44 in the third quarter to take a 22-point lead by the end of the period. The Suns had zero turnovers in the third quarter after committing nine in the first half.

THUNDER 105, CLIPPERS 92

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 25 points and Oklahoma City extended their undefeated start to the season by beating Los Angeles.

All five Thunder starters scored in double figures, and the six straight wins to begin the season marked the team's best start since moving to Oklahoma City from Seattle in 2008.

Norman Powell scored 24 points and James Harden added 12 points and 13 rebounds, but the Clippers dropped to 0-4 in their new arena despite holding double-digit leads in each of those defeats.

Embiid verbally confronts, then shoves, Philadelphia reporter

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A visibly angry Joel Embiid shouted at and eventually shoved a Philadelphia newspaper columnist in a locker room altercation after the struggling 76ers lost to the Memphis Grizzlies on Saturday night.

The NBA quickly said it has opened an investigation into the matter.

Embiid took issue with *Philadelphia Inquirer* columnist Marcus Hayes, who mentioned the All-Star center's late brother and his son—both named Arthur—in columns questioning Embiid's professionalism and effort not being in shape after playing in the Paris Olympics. Embiid has yet to play for the 76ers this season.

As reporters entered the locker room to talk to players, Embiid stood and confronted Hayes.

"The next time you bring up my dead brother and my son again, you are going to see what I'm going to do to you and I'm going to have to ... live with the consequences," Embiid said to Hayes.

Embiid continued, with several instances of profanity in the next few sentences. Hayes offered an apology, which Embiid did not want. "That's not the f——— first time." Embiid said.

Embiid later said that he doesn't care what reporters say. "But you do," Hayes answered.

Embiid appeared to get louder at that point, and not long afterward pushed Hayes on the shoulder while the team's public relations chief got between them. Another PR person moved Tyrese Maxey's interview to the hallway outside the locker room, trying to clear reporters.

At the same time, a team security person asked the media not to report on what had happened. Embiid yelled over the security guard.

"They can do whatever they want," Embiid said. "I don't give a s—-."

Embiid had called Hayes out in a press conference following practice on Friday at the team's training facility, referring to him as "Marcus, whatever his name is" and questioning critics of his prolonged absence.

Hayes recently wrote a story saying that Embiid disrespects the 76ers and the game, and that the team should consider giving fans refunds when Embiid doesn't play.

"I've done way too much for this … city to be treated like this, done way too ... much," Embiid said Friday. "I wish I was as lucky as other ones, but that doesn't mean that I'm not trying and I'm not doing whatever it takes to be out there, which I'm gonna be here pretty soon."

Hayes was not at the practice on Friday. It remains unclear when Embiid will play, and the NBA probe will determine if disciplinary action is warranted.

Dodgers have eye on back-to-back titles with Ohtani returning to mound in 2025

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers' first game of the season in South Korea was overshadowed afterward by Shohei Ohtani's interpreter hinting at his stealing from the Japanese superstar. Their last postgame was a beer and champagne-fueled celebration of the franchise's eighth World Series title.

In between came a multitude of injuries, especially to the rotation as well as Mookie Betts' broken hand and Freddie Freeman's sprained ankle, Ohtani's historic 50/50 feat, the franchise's 11th National League West title in 12 seasons, and compiling the best record in the majors.

Then came the playoffs, where the Dodgers proved a resilient bunch.

They trailed rival San Diego 2-1 in the National League Division Series and rallied to win in five games.

They were pushed to six games in the NL Championship Series by the New York Mets before advancing.

They were about to lose the World Series opener until Freeman delivered the first walk-off grand slam in Series history. They ran through eight pitchers to eke out a 7-6 victory over the New York Yankees to close out the Series in five games.

"We just kept going. Even in the postseason, I don't think anyone had us picked. I don't think they had us picked to get out of the first series," manager Dave Roberts said. "For us to go out there and fight and scratch and claw and win 11 games in October, that's a credit to our guys."

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani celebrates their win against the New York Yankees in Game 5 to win the baseball World Series, Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024, in New York.

Investing a billion dollars to acquire Ohtani and fellow Japanese player Yoshinobu Yamamoto last offseason certainly paid off, even if Ohtani's playoff performance didn't match what he did during the regular season when his offense carried the Dodgers.

Ohtani reached career highs in home runs, stolen bases and RBIs and is the favorite to win NL MVP honors. In the playoffs, he went 2 for 19 with no RBIs and had one single after partially dislocating his shoulder in Game 2 of the World Series.

"What Shohei's done to our ball club, the Dodger fan base domestically, globally, I just don't think you can quantify," Roberts said. "He was playing with one arm in the postseason. So most guys would probably tap out, but he was going to not be denied at playing and posting and being in the lineup."

The Dodgers made some key pickups at the July trade deadline, including pitchers Jack Flaherty—who was one of three healthy starters in the playoffs—and Michael Kopech as well as utilityman Tommy Edman, whose offense in the NLCS earned him MVP honors.

Ohtani's former interpreter is on his way to jail on bank and tax fraud charges when he's sentenced in December. Ohtani is going back to being a two-way sensation next year when he resumes pitching after he spent this season recovering from a second elbow surgery.

The Dodgers have eight players who became free agents when the World Series ended: Walker Buehler, Flaherty, Kiké Hernández, Teoscar Hernández, Daniel Hudson, Joe Kelly, Kevin Kiermaier and Blake Treinen.

Hudson announced his retirement after Wednesday night's victory, while Kiermaier had already said he planned to retire.

The Dodgers hold team options on Austin Barnes and Miguel Rojas for next season. Clayton Kershaw has a player option and has said he plans to be back after a toe injury kept him out of the playoffs.

But for now the celebration continues.

After winning a neutral-site World Series against Tampa Bay in 2020 and being denied a parade because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Dodgers have pent-up energy to burn.

"I'm sure there's no asterisk on this one," Roberts said.

They will commemorate their championship with a downtown parade and Dodger Stadium celebration on Friday, which would have been Fernando Valenzuela's 64th birthday. The 1981 NL Cy Young Award and Rookie of the Year winner died last week.

"It's going to be emotional," said Roberts, who was friends with Valenzuela. "I know he's smiling right now and very proud of this organization."

After sloppy, bitter disappointment in World Series, Yankees turn attention to keeping Juan Soto

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Yankees season ended in a comedy of errors that left them to pursue Juan Soto without a title glow.

Soto was the last player lingering in the dugout after Wednesday night's 7-6 loss in World Series Game 5, watching the Los Angeles Dodgers celebrate after New York frittered away a five-run lead with a monumental meltdown that included three errors, a catcher's interference call, a balk and a pitcher failing to cover first base.

He walked up a step on the first-base end, pointed to the sky, then followed his Yankees teammates to the clubhouse for perhaps the final time.

"I would love to see him in pinstripes for quite a long time," captain Aaron Judge said.

Aaron Boone thought in an even more expansive span.

"I hope he's here forever," the manager said.

A free agent at 26, Soto is likely to command a contract of at least $500 million. His market is likely limited to baseball's big-market behemoths, the Yankees, Mets and Dodgers along with perhaps the Blue Jays, Cubs, Giants, Padres, Phillies and Red Sox.

"Everyone wants to be on a winning team," Soto said. "That's one of the biggest things that you look up to."

He gave no hints of a favorite, answering questions as carefully as he observes the strike zone.

"I'm going to be available for all 30 teams," Soto said. "I don't want to say anybody has any advantage because at the end of the day, we're going to look at what they have and how much they want me."

While the Yankees went an AL-best 94-68 and won the East after missing the playoffs in 2023, they self-destructed against the Dodgers and consigned themselves to a 15th straight season of without a title.

With the Yankees ahead 5-0 in the fifth inning of Game 5, Judge dropped Tommy Edman's fly to center for his first error since May 2023, Gold Glove-winning shortstop Anthony Volpe bounced a throw to third trying for a forceout and ace Gerrit Cole didn't cover first on Mookie Betts' grounder to Anthony Rizzo.

Boone was shattered. The clubhouse remained closed to media for an extended period after the game while the manager and players exchanged thoughts on the season and ending, according to reliever Clay Holmes.

"This is going to sting forever," Boone said.

"I'm heartbroken," he added, his voice quavering. "I haven't had that feeling of being—celebrating and going home, like many of the guys in there. I'm 51. I poured my life into that. You're chasing that, and when you get that close, it's heartbreaking."

He recalled the Yankees' Series-ending Game 6 loss to Miami in 2003, when Boone was a player.

"I can still see the Marlins and hear the Marlins celebrating on our field," he said. "It was one of the most painful moments that I've experienced."

New York has a 2025 option on Boone, who said Wednesday he hasn't thought about his future after leading the team to a 603-429 record, three AL East titles and one pennant in seven seasons. The Yankees' 15 years without winning the World Series is the third-longest drought in franchise history, behind the first 20 seasons from 1903-22 and 17 from 1979-95.

Much of the roster will change. Torres is a free agent along with Holmes, Tommy Kahnle and Tim Hill among the relievers and left fielder Alex Verdugo. The Yankees are likely to decline Rizzo's $17 million option. Cole can opt out of his contract, but New York can void that by adding a $36 million salary for 2029.

New York has weakness at the bottom of its batting order. The No. 8 slot was 21st in the majors at .219 and the No. 9 hole 12th at .228.

Jazz Chisholm Jr., inserted at third after he was acquired from Miami in July, could replace Torres at second.

DJ LeMahieu, coming off three straight injury-marred seasons, is signed for two more years at $15 million each.

While Jasson Domínguez could be an option in the outfield, he struggled at the plate and defensively in left field following his return from Tommy John surgery.

Judge, likely to win his second AL MVP after hitting 58 homers, slumped to a .184 average with three homers and nine RBIs in 14 postseason games. Now 32 following his ninth season with New York, Judge spoke before the Series of how champion Yankees such as Derek Jeter and Mariano Rivera have a validation.

"They definitely got a different aura walking around here when you got a couple of rings on your fingers," he said.

Giancarlo Stanton hopes players learn "never to have this feeling again" and arrive at spring training with even greater focus and a determination to limit miscues.

"Up the level in all aspects," he said.

Freddie Freeman's spikes, Mookie Betts' batting gloves going to baseball Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP)—Freddie Freeman and Mookie Betts have a place in the Hall of Fame after the Los Angeles Dodgers' World Series title, donating their equipment to Cooperstown.

Freeman gave his spikes from Games 1 and 2 against the New York Yankees and Betts his batting gloves from Game 5, the Hall said after the Dodgers completed a five-game Series win on Wednesday night.

Manager Dave Roberts donated a cap, pitcher Anthony Banda a jersey, Walker Buehler a glove and pitcher Clayton Kershaw, who was injured, a celebration soaked championship cap.

Max Muncy donated a bat and batting gloves from his postseason record streak of reaching base 12 straight times. Catcher Will Smith gave his chest protector and cap from Wednesday.

The Hall also got a ball from the ninth inning, but not the one from the final out.

Wilson makes eye-popping TD catch, Jets beat Texans to snap 5-game skid

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Move over Odell Beckham Jr., Garrett Wilson might have snatched your spot among the NFL's greatest catches.

With one hand, of course.

Wilson made a dazzling 26-yard go-ahead touchdown catch early in the fourth quarter and the New York Jets snapped a five-game losing streak by beating the Houston Texans 21-13 on Thursday night.

"I just kind of lobbed one up there and he made an unbelievable catch," quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "That was a huge play. ... That's a game-changing play."

Rodgers had three touchdown passes, including another earlier one-handed score by Wilson and a 37-yard throw to recently acquired Davante Adams, and the Jets (3-6) won for the first time in four games under interim head coach Jeff Ulbrich.

With the Jets trailing 10-7 and facing third-and-19 from the Texans 26, Rodgers tossed the ball up toward Wilson in the end zone. The star wide receiver jumped and reached up with his right hand with both legs spread in in the air — looking like the Michael Jordan "Jumpman" logo.

The play was initially called an incomplete pass, but Ulbrich challenged.

"Oh, my goodness," Ulbrich said. "I mean, I was talking to the ref when they were reviewing it. I was like, 'Just for the sake of posterity, you have to say that's in just so it goes down in history."

AP

New York Jets wide receiver Garrett Wilson (5) catches a pass for a touchdown as Houston Texans cornerback Kamari Lassiter (4) defends during the second half of an NFL football game Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024, in East Rutherford, N.J.

A video replay review confirmed that Wilson's shin was down in the end zone and a touchdown was called to give the Jets a 14-10 lead with 12:54 left.

It sent the fans at MetLife Stadium into a frenzy after they had little to cheer for until that point.

Wilson's catch was reminiscent of former Giants great Beckham's one-handed grab against Dallas in 2014.

"For it to even come up in that convo, I'm blessed," Wilson said. "I'm honored."

It also helped make up for a Jets touchdown that wasn't when rookie Malachi Corley made a mental mistake that negated his first NFL score.

With the Jets at the Texans 19 early in the second quarter, Corley took the toss from Rodgers and zipped down the right sideline. Corley sped into the end zone, but just before he crossed the goal line, he dropped the ball out of his right hand to celebrate.

A video review showed he had not gotten into the end zone before he dropped it. So, Corley was credited with an 18-yard run and a fumble. And because it rolled out of the side of the end zone, it was a touchback and a turnover.

"First of all, you can't do that." Ulbrich said about what he told Corley. "Second of all, you owe us one."

Rodgers finished 22 of 32 for 211 yards. His 37-yard touchdown pass to Adams, who earlier was cleared after being checked for a possible head injury, put the Jets up 21-10 with 2:56 left. It was Adams' first touchdown catch since being acquired from Las Vegas earlier this month.

Ka'imi Fairbairn made a 29-yard field goal with 39 seconds left to make it an eight-point game, but Adams recovered the onside kick and the Jets were able to take a knee and seal the win.

C.J. Stroud was 11 of 30 for 191 yards for the Texans (6-3), who played with injured receivers Stefon Diggs and Nico Collins. It was the first of three consecutive prime-time games for Houston, with a Sunday night home matchup against on Nov. 10 next and a Monday night meeting at Dallas on Nov. 18.

"It's embarrassing to come out here in a prime-time game and get embarrassed like that is never fun," Stroud said. "We have to be better in a lot of areas and that starts with me. There are plays I've got to make, throws I've got to make."

Fairbairn missed two field goals for Houston. With the Texans trailing 14-10, Fairbairn made it a one-point game when he kicked a 43-yarder—but Eric Watts was called for unnecessary roughness on the attempt, so Houston opted to accept the penalty and keep the ball.

The Jets made a defensive stand and the Texans were forced to try a 27-yard attempt, but Fairbairn doinked his kick off the left upright—keeping it 14-10.

Joe Mixon's 3-yard touchdown run capped a 98-yard drive for the Texans, who took a 7-0 lead late in the second quarter.

The Jets tied it on their opening possession of the second half when Rodgers completed a 21-yard pass to Wilson, who snagged the ball with one hand and ran into the end zone for the tying touchdown.

Riley Patterson, who signed to the active roster hours before the game to replace the injured Greg Zuerlein, hit the left upright on the extra point, but the ball deflected inside and cleared the crossbar.

Fairbairn's 54-yarder put the Texans back up, 10-7 with 4:11 left in the third quarter.

"The most frustrating part is that we were the better team," Houston right tackle Tytus Howard said. "We let that game get away from us, especially in the second half."

Rodgers was 7 of 14 in the first half for just 32 yards—his fewest in an opening two quarters with 10 or more attempts in his career. His previous low was 37 on 12 attempts against Denver on Nov. 1, 2015, while with Green Bay.

"I played about as bad as I could in the first half," Rodgers said, "and knew it had to get better from there."

ANNE

From page 16

went straight to the semis against Anne and defeated her, 6-3, 6-1.

Anne, also playing in the boys field, then won third place after a walkover by No. 2 seed Simon Tang.

Anne, who's been playing tennis since she was around 4-5 years old, said of her win, "I feel proud of myself for the win and thankful for my dad coaching me throughout the years."

As for the conditions throughout the tournament that started last Friday, she said, "The tournament conditions were okay, had a little bit of rain, but resumed my game as soon as possible."

The younger sister of NCAA tennis star Carol then said of her performance, "I felt confident about my performance in the tourney, but I still need to improve further more on my skills."

Si Woo, for his part, said he's proud of himself after adjusting following his first set loss.

"I very glad and proud of myself winning the boys 18 I think I was having trouble in the first set but I tried to play more consistently in the second set and it worked. I want to thank coach Jeff [Race] and my parents for supporting me always."

Results of the other divisions will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

Sponsors of the event are ASC Trust, Mobil, D&Q Distributors, Quality Distributors, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, National Park Service, AMS, iShop, Century Insurance, CTSI Logistics, TakeCare, and TBC.

The TanHoldings Tennis Classic 2024 had a year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic and made a return in 2021.

PEDAL

From page 16

divisions. Sublemente came in at 1.20:22, while Romero clocked in at 1:55:00.

For more information about the 2024 Saipan Unity Lions Club Year-End Bike Race, contact Willy Barbo at (670) 287-8216.

ROLLERS

From page 16

Rollers' leading scorer Kian Helgen and J.P. Pineda did everything they could on both ends to ensure they land the win and stop Ol'Aces' comeback short.

The Rollers though, watched as their lead dwindled and Ol'Aces' confidence on the court became palpable. However, in the end, when it came down to it, the Rollers' Helgen landed the deciding 2 points and secured the win, 61-59.

Helgen led the game with 18 points, Pineda contributed 12 markers, and Dany Defang and Kachu Norech put up twin 10 points each.

Joab led Ol'Aces with 11, while brother Omari scored 10, followed by Javen Camacho's eight points.

Results of the open division games last Saturday and Sunday will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Ol'Aces 59 – T. Joab 11, O. Joab 10, Javen Camacho 8, Eriich 7, Tang 7, Seman 6, Rangamar 2, D. Joab 2, #18 2, Capalad 1, Taitano 1.

670 Rollers 1 – Helgen 18, Pineda 12, Defang 10, Norech 10, Sasamoto 5, Villagomez 2, Huang 2, Camacho 2.

Scoring by halves: 40-21, 61-59.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES
NBA STANDINGS
EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	4	1	.800	–
New York	2	2	.500	1½
Brooklyn	2	3	.400	2
Philadelphia	1	3	.250	2½
Toronto	1	4	.200	3
Southeast Division				
Orlando	3	2	.600	–
Miami	2	2	.500	½
Charlotte	2	2	.500	½
Washington	2	2	.500	½
Atlanta	2	3	.400	1
Central Division				
Cleveland	5	0	1.000	–
Chicago	3	2	.600	2
Indiana	2	3	.400	3
Milwaukee	1	4	.200	4
Detroit	1	4	.200	4
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Houston	3	2	.600	–
Dallas	3	2	.600	–
Memphis	3	3	.500	½
San Antonio	2	3	.400	1
New Orleans	2	3	.400	1
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	4	0	1.000	–
Denver	2	2	.500	2
Minnesota	2	2	.500	2
Portland	2	3	.400	2½
Utah	0	5	.000	4½
Pacific Division				
Phoenix	4	1	.800	–
Golden State	4	1	.800	–
L.A. Lakers	3	2	.600	1
Sacramento	2	2	.500	1½
L.A. Clippers	2	3	.400	2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES
NFL STANDINGS
AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	6	2	0	.750	230	146
N.Y. Jets	3	6	0	.333	171	183
Miami	2	5	0	.286	97	157
New England	2	6	0	.250	124	197
South						
Houston	6	3	0	.667	201	200
Indianapolis	4	4	0	.500	175	172
Jacksonville	2	6	0	.250	172	224
Tennessee	1	6	0	.143	120	196
North						
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750	187	119
Baltimore	5	3	0	.625	242	209
Cincinnati	3	5	0	.375	195	203
Cleveland	2	6	0	.250	138	186
West						
Kansas City	7	0	0	1.000	173	123
Denver	5	3	0	.625	173	120
L.A. Chargers	4	3	0	.571	132	91
Las Vegas	2	6	0	.250	144	210
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Washington	6	2	0	.750	236	167
Philadelphia	5	2	0	.714	171	132
Dallas	3	4	0	.429	150	198
N.Y. Giants	2	6	0	.250	117	175
South						
Atlanta	5	3	0	.625	194	195
Tampa Bay	4	4	0	.500	235	213
New Orleans	2	6	0	.250	185	206
Carolina	1	7	0	.125	124	271
North						
Detroit	6	1	0	.857	234	134
Green Bay	6	2	0	.750	216	170
Minnesota	5	2	0	.714	188	137
Chicago	4	3	0	.571	163	119
West						
Arizona	4	4	0	.500	178	205
San Francisco	4	4	0	.500	210	182
Seattle	4	4	0	.500	190	195
L.A. Rams	3	4	0	.429	144	174

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adebayo scores 32 points to help Heat beat Wizards in Mexico City

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wilson makes eye-popping TD catch, Jets beat Texans to snap 5-game skid

PAGE 15

Anne, Si Woo triumph in THTC

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Rising tennis stars Anne Lee and Si Woo Lee triumphed once again in the finals of their respective divisions of the TanHoldings Tennis Classic 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Sunday.

Both Anne and Si Woo were champions in their respective divisions of the 2024 Crowne Plaza CNMI Junior Championship last April.

In this tourney, Anne mastered the girls 18 division as she was the top seed and made light work of her foes. In the finals against Irin Chung, Anne won the first set, 6-2, then laid waste to Chung in the second, 6-0.

As Anne had the bye, she jumped straight to the semis against Stella Choi and eliminated her after two swift sets as well, 6-2, 6-1.

Third place was Choi after she beat no. 2 seed Hannah Chae, 8-3.

As for No. 1 seed Si Woo, he dominated the boys 18 division and found himself against Nason Wessel in the finals.

Si Woo fell to Wessel in the first set, 2-6, and bounced back in the second, 6-2, to even it all up. Then in the tie-breaking third set, both boys put in their all and forced extra points. Si Woo eventually captured first place after a 10-7 advantage.

As Si Woo had the bye, he

See ANNE on Page 15

LEIGH GASES

File photo shows Anne Lee, left, and Si Woo Lee posing with their medals and perpetual trophies during the awards ceremony of the 2024 Crowne Plaza CNMI Junior Championship. Both netters are first place once again in their respective divisions of the 14th TanHoldings Tennis Classic 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Sunday.

Rollers 1 slips past Ol'Aces, 61-59

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

670 Rollers 1 had their work cut out for them later in the game over the rallying Ol'Aces as they won by just 2 points, 61-59, in the U17 division of the 2nd Annual SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ol'Aces was down by 19 points at the end of the first half after the Rollers started off strong. They were at a 3-19 deficit from multiple miscues and turnovers with 13 minutes left. Then, Theo Joab turned on the afterburners and made back-to-back layups and secured a 3-pointer to make it 14-21.

LEIGH GASES

670 Rollers 1's Ioane Camacho, right, goes up against Ol'Aces' Dereck Rangamar under the net during a free throw attempt in their game in the 2nd Annual SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

670 Rollers 1's Kian Helgen runs down the court during a fastbreak attempt at the basket during their game against Ol'Aces in the 2nd Annual SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

But the Rollers finally got out of their slump and stopped Ol'Aces in their tracks for a 26-14 game with less than seven minutes left.

Man-to-man defense and full court presses was the name of the game as Ol'Aces upped the pressure, but the Rollers managed to slip by with good ball handling and accurate takes at the net.

With less than five minutes left, the Rollers led, 30-16. Ol'Aces labored through the final minutes and put up just five more points, while the Rollers scored 10 more for a 40-21 lead at the end of the half.

But from there in the second half, the rallying Ol'Aces didn't make the win easy for the Rollers. Ol'Aces got better takes at the basket and closed the gap quickly.

Despite a rough start for Ol'Aces, it became anybody's game in the second half. The

See ROLLERS on Page 15

Pedal for Health on Nov. 24

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Butch Sublemente is flanked by Bryan Ytac, left, and Rio Jacob in the podium for the mountain bike division of Saipan Unity Lions Club Pedal for Health Criterium Yearend Bike Race last year in Marpi.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Pedal for Health 2024 Saipan Unity Lions Club Year-End Bike Race is set for Sunday, Nov. 24.

The registration fee is $25 and comes with a free T-shirt. Online registration at https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=369061 closes on Friday, Nov. 22.

Categories are male/female road bike short course, male/female mountain bike short course, male/female road bike short course, and male/female mountain bike long course.

The route for the long course is from Banzai Cliff, to Tanapag Mobil, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, then back to Banzai Cliff.

Meanwhile, the short course is from the Banzai Cliff, to Tanapag Mobil, and back to Banzai Cliff.

Medals will be awarded to the overall Top 3 winners in the male/female categories, road bike/mountain bike categories, short/long course categories, and age categories.

There's also a raffle with a smart TV as the grand prize. First prize is $200, second is $100, third is $50 for two winners, as well as many more consolation prizes.

In last year's race, J.R. Barrios and J.C. Ferrer topped the road bike their respective road bike division. Barrios finished with a time of 1:12.58, while Ferrer was the lone biker in the women's division and finished at 1:27:07.

As for the mountain bike division, Butch Sublemente and Kris Romero won first place in their respective

See PEDAL on Page 15